

4

春日みかげ

イラストみやま零

# 織田信奈の野望





井戸のもとへと駆け寄り、ねねは水垢離をはじめた。

槍を持って戦場へ行きたい。

でも、幼いねねにとって、それは無理というものだった。



しほ  
たかつ  
いえ  
柴田勝家

に  
わなが  
ひで  
丹羽長秀

あけ  
ちみつ  
ひる  
明智光秀







まつなが ひろこ  
松永久秀

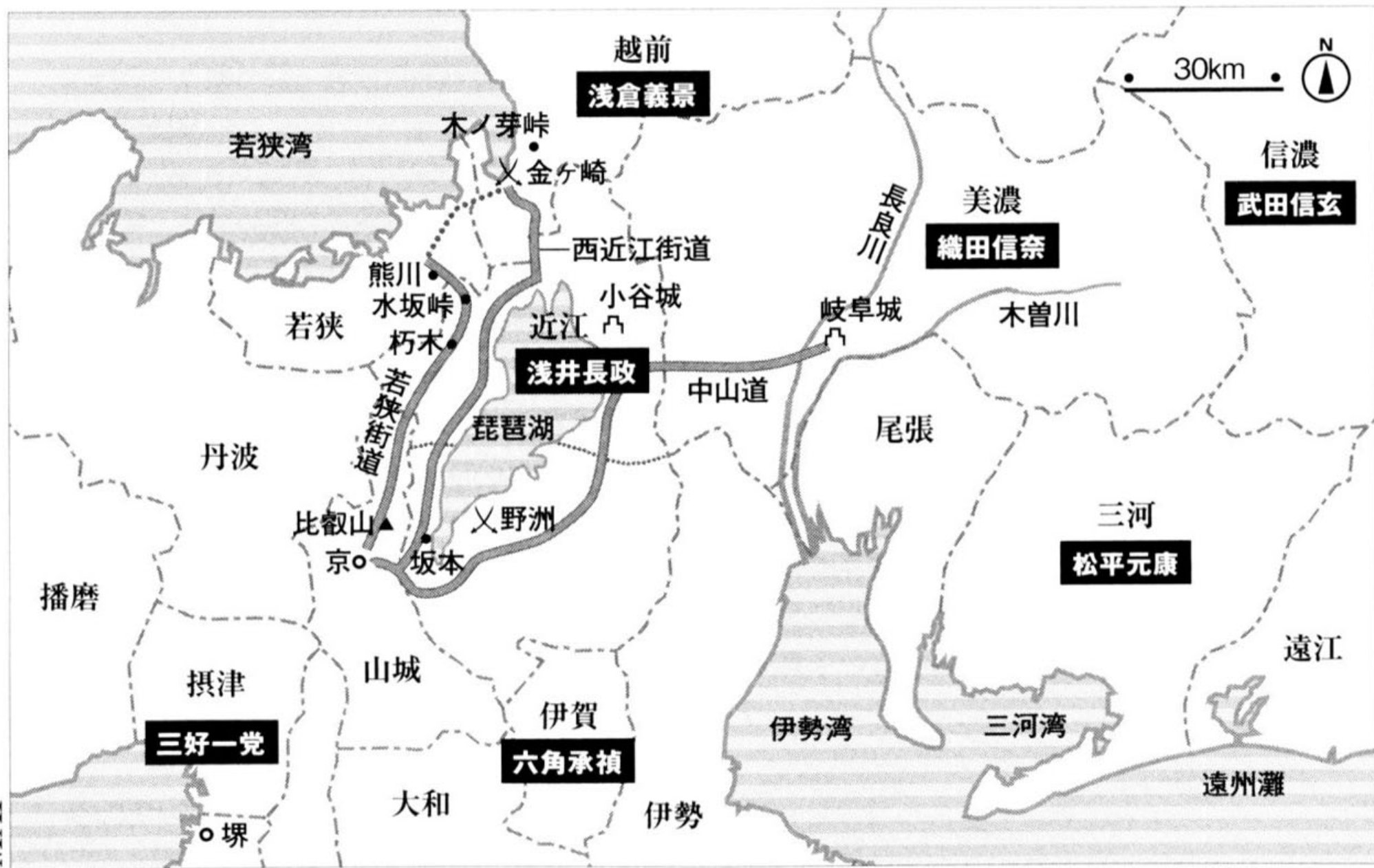


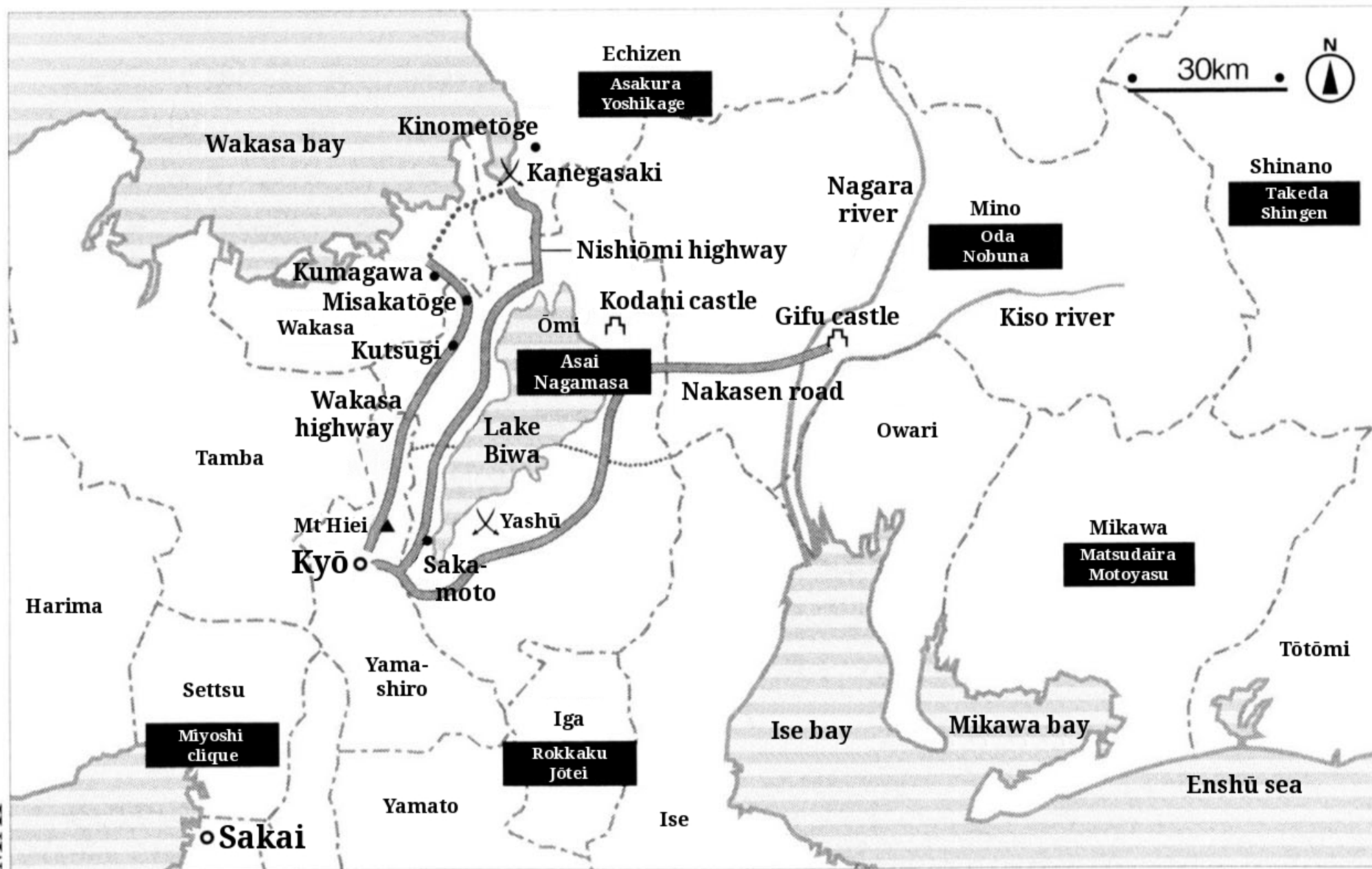
「サル、逃げて……!!」

夢の中で信奈は、地獄と化した金ヶ崎をさまよっていた。









Note from Translator: This is a rough translation from the chinese raws we have. It is still under work and there will be lots of edits in the near future as I care more about bringing to readers the story rather than the correct use of vocab and grammar. If any readers have inputs and want to edit, please do so.

~Tarmade~



# Chapter 1 : Sniping of Nobuna

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## Part 1

The location is at the North Eastern areas, the Yonezawa Castle of Dewa Province.

This is the main castle of Date Terumune of Oshu.

At a corner of Yonezawa castle, connected with tons of rainforests, there was a black namban church erected in it.

If one looks closely, they will see an upside down cross on the roof.

In the midst of this namban church that seems to be an antichrist, there was a high pitched shout from a young girl since morning.

"Kojuurou~~!"

Bontenmaru, Date Terumune's eldest daughter, this is the voice of Date Masamune calling her aide, Kojuurou. No matter how far apart they were, Kojuurou would be able to hear Bontenmaru's voice.

"Yes~~! Hime-sama, what is it that you wish by calling for me this early?"

15 years of age, a girl born from a distinguished chief advisor, Katakura Kojuurou.

Ever since Bontenmaru was born, she was dispatched to protect her, and from then on, she has been acting like an aide to take care of the willful Bontenmaru as a girl. Just like this, it seems that she is almost past her marriage age.

Anyway, Kojuurou came to the Antichrist church and Bontenmaru who was supposed to tour around Sakai, was wearing the black feathered namban hat and was standing on the top of the altar with arms crossed.

"Uwahahahaha, Kojuurou! I've decided to be the conqueror of Oshu from now on!"







"Wh...What are you saying, Hime? Don't tell me you were affected by those ridiculous namban culture....? Those daimyos in Oshu all had those complicated marriage relationships, they won't be serious in fighting among themselves, isn't it?"

"You don't understand! Before I become the "beast of revelation", I must first destroy this old way of thinking! Uwahahahaha! If I don't hurry and become the conqueror of Oshu, I will be surpassed by Oda Nobuna who had already captured Kyo!"

"Kyo...Kyo is too far, that is a place that we.... we Oshu people did not have relations to... a different world....."

"Shut up, Kojuurou, don't say things like this anymore! Oda Nobuna is becoming stronger and stronger! She had started to attack the Soma clan! Towards enemies who don't listen to "the beast", they must be eliminated!"

Ahhhh~? The cowardly Kojuurou let out a small shriek.

"Don't tell me you were affected by Oda Nobuna at Sakai, Hime-sama? Don't become such a terrifying person! There will be enemies everywhere around you! And, the head of the Date clan isn't Hime~! Your father, Terumune is the head~!"

"Hmph.... It's unavoidable. Listen, Kojuurou, I can't wait to the time when I come of age. It's because I have such an ambition, that's why I want father to live a retired life in a relaxing way."

"Ahhh~? Hime-sama is still too young~ You can't do it~!?"

"To give the position of head to this "beast of revelation", there is no better choice for father! Ahh, how agonizing it is for me in the path to be a conqueror... But I'm willing to brave through this path of hell! Like Jesus who bore the heavy cross on his back and climbed impossible peaks! But, I must go against Jesus~! Because I'm the "Antichrist" that the book of revelations had predicted! Hahahaha!"

After such a fiery speech, Bontenmaru revealed a beastly expression and continued. ""Dokugan Masamune" Though we had decided on this extremely cool nickname, but now, I have no need for it."

"Eh? That is a nickname that Hime-sama and me thought of using 3 days and nights, after referencing from the great Tang's famous one-eyed hero,



Li Keyong. I had said your looks are very similar to Li Keyong when Hime-sama wears black....."

"Listen, Kojuurou, like you said, I'm not single eye at all. In Sakai, a Saru from the future told me. I am a hero from the ages, someone who had this "Jyakigan". It was said that in a place of the future named "Akihabara", these eyes of mine are very popular!"

"Jyakigan? Does it mean that the color of the eyes are different?"

"Correct!"

Bontenmaru, with the difference of the color of the eyes due to her father being a namban guy.... Because of the sin of her mother with her namban father, she was punished by the Buddha.... The people surrounding her all discussed softly, and even her mother was stunned, said "So ugly" and was despondent and almost disowned her. Bontenmaru asked her father, "I want to see a namban church with a real pastor." and was sent to Sakai. The advisors all said, "With this, we can finally do a proper exorcism." "Isn't it better if we just send her back to namban?" and just like this, she was half banished to Sakai. Because of the advisors, her protector, Kojuurou isn't allowed to go along.

But the Bontenmaru who came back from Sakai seems to have gained confidence and ambition like a different girl.

But, to be the conqueror of Oshu, and competing with the world's Oda Nobuna, to Kojuurou, it all seems like a story right out of a dream.

"Kojuurou! From now on, I will be the "Jyakigan Masamune".... Ha.... Hahahaha.... Look on, Oda Nobuna, I will use my Jyakigan to conquer Oshu and come at Kyo like a storm! Like the true great demon lord, let us battle to the death!"

"A...Ar...Are you serious, Hime-sama?"

"Of course! Uwahahahaha!"

"Uhh, you came back with the ambition to unify and return peace to the world, so that's what you meant, Hime? If that's true, then I Kojuurou will do what I can to help!"

"No! My ambition is to destroy this world like a demon! World chaos! To become the said "Beast of Revelation" and rampage the lands like in the holy bible! Uwahahahaha!"



"Ahhhh~, Hime, Hime! Though I'm overjoyed that you regained your spirits, but what has this Sakai trip change you into~!? What should I do~?"

In this mysterious Anti Christ church outside of Yonezawa castle, there were the sobbing sounds from the serious Kojuurou.

## Part 2

This scenery had never been seen before.

In the middle of the night.

All one could see were mountains..... But, there were scattered sounds of hoes and shovels.

Hoes? Shovels?

These aren't weapons, they should be in use by the common folks.

Why.....?

Isn't Onii-sama heading towards Odani castle?

Sagara Yoshiharu is now full of injuries and was staggering alone in the battlefield full of tragic screams.

His back even had an arrow stuck in him.

His thighs and legs are full of injuries from the spears and traps.

He was now unable to walk straight and was staggering along with swords and rods.....

"Nene..... I'm sorry.... I can't return to your side already....."

This was the last sentence from him.

Sagara Yoshiharu suddenly collapses forward.

His soul is still heading back towards Kyo.....

"Onii-sama!?"

Nene woke up violently.

The Yoshiharu in the battlefield disappeared from her eyes like an illusion.



The place that Nene woke up is a dark room... on a tatami mat.

".....Hu...Hu...Hu.... dream, it's just a dream..... good, good."

This is Kyo's Myōkaku Temple.

Sagara Yoshiharu and his mates were living here.

In a room beside this, Takenaka Hanbei was lying on the tatami mat, and Hachisuka Goemon and Sagara Yoshiharu has yet to return from Omi.

The Oda Nobuna army had moved out to assault Echizen's Asakura clan. Yoshiharu and Goemon who were tasked to protect Kyo rushed out to Omi, while frantically saying, "Asakura clan and Asai clan are very close, if Asai Nagamasa of Northern Omi betrays Nobuna because of the Asakura clan, then the Oda troops have no way out, and will be eliminated."

"Weird.... That dream just now, if it's a dream, it's too weird, it's almost as if it's real."

The young Nene has yet to see a real battlefield.

But, such a scenery is the same as a real one, what Nene saw in the dream was real.

It's still deep in the night. The prescription that Takenaka Hanbei got from Manase was taking effect and she is sleeping soundly now. Nene does not want to wake her up just to discuss about this.

"That Onii-sama that is like a cockroach who can't die, don't tell me.... Though Onii-sama's skills with the spear, bow, and riding are all ridiculously low, but he has always lived on somehow!"

Till now... hasn't Yoshiharu returned to the home that Nene waited all these times while beaming?

Bringing local delicacies with him.

During the time at Okehazama or at Sunomata Ichiya castle, or at Kiyomizu.... Yoshiharu can always somehow win against all odds at the most desperate of times.

He will be safe this time too. Yes, he will be.....



Repeating this to herself, but somehow, her body can't stop shivering. Once again, she slips back in her bed and hugged her legs while forcing her eyes to be closed, but the uneasiness in her heart can't be stopped.

### Part 3

"These are the front troops of Echizen's Asakura Yoshikage!? There are so many of them!"

"Uwahhhh, run, commander~!"

"No matter the amount of enemies~! We must face them straight on!"

"We must let the commander return alive to Hime-sama's side!"

After escaping from Echizen's Kanegasaki castle, Sagara Yoshiharu and these 500 seemingly invincible people were running in the mountains, with rains of arrows flying down at them, no matter who it was, they all became injured.

The Asakura army was attacking them like a flood.

Oda Nobuna, who had helped Imagawa Yoshimoto to attain the position of Shogun, successfully persuaded Himiko to launch an attack at Echizen's Asakura Yoshikage after he refused to submit himself to the Imagawa Shogunate.

The warriors who had joined in the battle, other than Nobuna herself, were the 2 chief advisors, Shibata Katsuie and Niwa Nagahide.

And the talented genius, a new girl, Akechi Mitsuhide.

The aide, Maeda Inuchiyo.

Other than them, there was the ally, Mikawa's Matsudaira Motoyasu.

With all personnel's counted, the total army strength is 30000.

And the Echizen clan's total strength is just 20000, because of the sudden assault, the Echizen army was defeated in an instant since they weren't prepared.

Nobuna's troops rode on the victory and conquered Kanegasaki castle and started their advance on Konome ridge.



The distance from Echizen's main castle to Ichijoudani castle is just a step away.

But at this time, the god-brother (Actually is a girl) of Nobuna who is in charge of Northern Omi, Asai Nagamasa defected. Her father, Asai Hisamasa who treats the Asakura clan as their ally imprisoned Nagamasa and grabbed the position of the head, with this, the retreat route of the Nobuna army that was deep in Echizen was cut off.

20000 Asakura troops at the front.

15000 Asai troops at the back.

The Nobuna troops are trapped like a rat.

Nobuna decided to give the difficult order to retreat to Kyo. The one who is willing to stop the attacks of the Asakura troops and protect their back, is Sagara Yoshiharu.

A high school student who adores sengoku games but somehow came to this era from modern Japan.

Not Oda Nobunaga, but his mission is to help Oda Nobuna obtain the world. While quarreling non-stop and helping Nobuna, he was called "Saru".

At such a dangerous situation, he can still smile refreshingly.

"From my gaming knowledge, this event is the "Retreat of Kanegasaki", if I'm really the guy who replaced Toukichiro-jii-san and came to this world, then I will definitely live and reach Kyo with Nobuna!! Ohohoh?!"

Suddenly, Yoshiharu's headband was hit by a bullet from an arquebus.

"Not good! If that was on target, I will die!! Uwahhh!"

"Hohoho, what a careless guy, to be shot dead at the head by a bullet, how boring."

The shikigami, Zenki, who was summoned by Takenaka Hanbei is just an idiot who is floating in the sky right now.

Though he doesn't look like a noble, he is a man that looks elegant. But he isn't a human and his head will reveal fox ears occasionally. Shikigamis are such a strange race.



"Such a careless human can win, Zenki. Look, is my face auspicious or what?"

"No, Sagara, your face looks full of women troubles. There will be quite some troubles waiting for you in the future."

"Eh? What's that about? There isn't really someone decent in this troop, is there?"

The Matsudaira Ninja who is clothed in black, Hattori Hanzou jumped between trees while his pair of eyes was always starring at Yoshiharu.

"Sagara Yoshiharu. Didn't you say that you will live from this "Retreat at Kanegasaki" no matter what? If we are defeated here, the Oda army won't be able to run! The enemy who knows this fact will attack us as if their lives depend on it."

"You're right, Hanzou, we can't stay here because now, the Oda main troops had successfully retreated! Letting them reach Kyo safely is our responsibility!"

"There are just 500 of us. If we meet the enemy's main troops, we will be eliminated in an instant."

"Actually, I have the 50 arquebus from Juubei. If the Asakura troops chase us, we can teach them a lesson even if we are defeated."

"There are just 50 of them, and we have to concentrate on running, there is no time to reload them."

The foot soldiers that came from Kyushu's Satsuma Province besides Yoshiharu were all suggesting available strategies to him while blocking the arrows aiming at Yoshiharu's back. They are really elites.

"In Satsuma's Shimazu clan, there is a technique called "Sutegamari".

Even during running, there were small amounts of arquebus squads ambushing pursuers. But because there is a certain timing requirement to reload, rapid firing is impossible. Once then, the soldiers who had finished shooting will stab their arquebus in the enemy lines and hope for a swift death. Of course, soldiers without any arquebus will just take spears and rush into enemy lines.

If they do it like this and 500 people will commit suicide with the enemy in this mountain path, the enemy's pursuit will be greatly delayed and Yoshiharu-dono's chances of escaping will increase.

"To protect our commander, we heroes will not hesitate to commit suicide with the enemy. A coward will foil the entire plan, but we Satsuma heroes are united in the Sagara troops, so there is no need for worry. This is the tradition of the Shimizu clan, the ultimate technique, "Sutegamari!"

All 500 of the soldiers were shouting "Let's battle it out, Satsuma heroes!" "We will bet our lives on it!", Yoshiharu was shaking his head while running. \*Bang\* another shot from the back just missed his ear by inches.

"Bastards! How can I just let you guys get killed and I myself run away! That isn't the Sagara Yoshiharu way of fighting! Don't just give up on life so easily, all of us are to return to Kyo!"

"I too must fight back with the arquebus!" Once Yoshiharu said that, the 500 heroes who were all injured had their expressions changed and said, "No, you can't do it, commander!"

"The commander taking an arquebus and fighting with us, I've never heard of such a thing!"

"That's why I said, I can't do such a thing like letting you guys be killed like insects!"

"What are you talking about!? We were born to protect you!"

"Please! Our dreams are all entrusted on you now!"

"We are just insignificant soldiers, for your own ambitions, do not hesitate to kill us!"

Yoshiharu's eyes started to blur with tears before he had finished listening to them and interject their words again.

"I.... will feel painful no matter which one of you guys died! I want to see Nobuna again, though I want to.... but soldiers or princesses, aren't they all human beings!? Even if your statuses are low, but even you have families and friends, right!? There are people waiting for you to go home, right!? So, don't just say things like "giving up on life".

Yoshiharu who was born in the peaceful 21st century wasn't used to the killing on the battlefield. No, he will never get use to it.



"I don't have a family.... I did say that, but that is because the era is different, so I can't see them. But you guys are different! So.... Though it's hard to accomplish.... but even so... I must let all of us reach Kyo safely!"

At these heartfelt words, the fearless guys were enveloped with an unspeakable feeling.

"What is this, what kind of commander is this.....!"

"This guy isn't like a samurai at all.....!"

"But why.... our tears can't be stopped.....!"

"Well said, Sagara Yoshiharu! Then, what do we do to the huge army at the back?" Hanzou said. Using Zenki's powers as he chants an incantation to release mist all around them, but the Asakura troops had already rushed all the way to the narrow mountain path and will be on to Yoshiharu and them in an instant.

"I will lead the arquebus squad personally. Using the 50 arquebus that I borrowed from Juubei, we must cover the main troop when they are retreating! Even if it's kinda forced, but we must not simply lose our lives! We must endure all this to the last second of our lives!"

Yes. From now on, we must battle on.

Yoshiharu who had been fleeing all the time, turned his horse around and shot at the Asakura troops.

"Hurry! We need 50 men! In the 500 of us, is there anyone skilled in using arquebus?"

"I'm skilled in using spears."

"Katanas for me."

"I use chains."

"Traps."

"I use punches."

.....Is there no one!?

In this suicide squad, everyone is confident in their strength, every single one of them are heroes capable of fighting one to many.

But also due to that, they are a bunch of people not skilled in using arquebus.

"With this, we can't establish an arquebus squad at all!"

"Ahhh!? Juubei lent me these 50 harquebus graciously, but didn't she give me any skilled arquebus users!?"

"Sagara Yoshiharu! Decide fast, the enemy is right in front of us!"

"Hmph, though Sagara Yoshiharu is a muddle headed monkey that loves big breasts, but he always has good ideas. Especially those tasteless knowledge from the future."

Zenki said while he is floating on top and Yoshiharu who was silent, suddenly had an idea flashed through his mind.

Arquebus.... Oda troops.... Sengoku SLG!

".....I GOT IT! "The repeated volleys!"

"Repeated volleys!?"

The soldiers holding the arquebus were already fighting. Blood and screams rang out in the mountainside.

Yoshiharu explained the plan briefly.

"It's the strategy that the Oda troops employ in the "Battle at Nagashino", it's very simple! The arquebus's weakness is that it's very time-consuming to reload after every shot, so it can't fire rapidly. Before firing the second shot, the enemy will kill him already."

"So after one shot, the foot soldiers will rush in."

"We will split the 50 men into 3 teams, one being in charge of filling the gunpowder in the barrel, one in charge of lighting it up, the last team in charge of firing."

So as to say, Oda Nobunaga's "repeated volleys" is a strategy to split his cannon troops to 1000 a team, and letting the cannons fire non-stop. But, it's been said that the "repeated volleys" had another specialty, that is "The time to aim will be shortened as the one who shoots and the one who reloads are different."



"We don't have anyone who can finish a job from reloading to firing."  
Yoshiharu noticed this problem and suddenly thought of a way.

"We will all help to prepare the gun for firing so we can let these 50  
arquebus continue firing."

"Commander, with this we can fire at 3 times the speed!"

"To be shot at such a speed, the enemy troops will definitely fall into  
chaos."

In front of their eyes, the enemy troops had already pushed in and plunge  
the whole area into disarray.

But at such a narrow mountain path, even if there are only 50 arquebus,  
the enemy will definitely be confused.

After making the resolve to battle, Yoshiharu's leg suddenly starts  
shivering.

"Listen, Sagara Yoshiharu. Don't be scared of firing, once you are scared,  
you will be killed."

Zenki who is at the side said with a dark expression.

"Ah, Ahh!"

The fingers and shoulders that had taken over the arquebus had all started  
shivering.

Must not get hit by the enemy.

This isn't playing a game!

If he had fought on while only thinking about himself, then the Sagara  
Yoshiharu corpse's spirit will be lost right here.

But at the same time as Yoshiharu's heart starts wavering, in front of him  
was a shining Nobuna.

"Saru, is there a need to let your heart suffer so much?"

Hmmm.....?

This seems to be not for me but to Katsue.....

"Oi Saru, my eyes have always been looking at the world 10 years, even 100 years after. Even if no one understands you, I will believe in you!"

Ahhh, I understand.

I understand.

For me, I always know you are correct.

Because of that, even if no one understands you, I will definitely understand.

"So, when your heart is in pain, don't pray, just think of the "common folks"! Let me alone suffer this pain!"

Damn it.... Ever since you were born, you have been enveloped in this country's non-stop war and fighting.

Other than you, no one else will bring peace to this world again, no, they can't do it.

This isn't a pain only you can bear!

I.....

Nobuna. If it's to protect you, I'd rather.....!

"Uwahhhh.....!"

Yoshiharu closed his eyes and squeezed the trigger.

The flying bullet did not hit the enemy.

The amateur arquebus squad were all bad with their weapons.

Even if it's such a close range shot, none of them had managed to hit the enemy.

But even with that, the Asakura front troops who were suddenly attacked by arquebus in the mist-covered mountain were scared stiff by the sudden burst of the cannons.

"The arquebus is single shot! There's already one shot, no need to worry! Charge!"



Within the shirt of the enemy commander, with a bang! Yoshiharu's second shot was right on target. The commander shrieked, "Bas...Bastard!!!.....", fainted and fell from the horse.

"Next!"

Without any time for breathing, Yoshiharu fired the third shot.

"Tha... That is a multi shot arquebus!"

"As expected, the Oda clan has shipped new weapons from namban."

With just this, the front troops of the Asakura army were defeated.

Yoshiharu's plan worked.

"Hattori squad, here!"

Hanzou roared and together with 10 other ninjas, they rushed into the confused Asakura front troops while throwing their shurikens at the enemies silently, and then mercilessly finishing them off with their daggers. They also scattered spikes on the floor while releasing more smoke to confuse the enemy.

In the smoke, movement is already difficult, add to the gunshots ringing out in the surroundings, the Asakura front troops fell into a deeper confusion.

At this time.

The ground shook with a huge explosion.

The cold and merciless Hattori Hanzou seems to have ignited the explosives set by the enemy.

"Now!"

Yoshiharu shouted, "Everyone, retreat!", all 500 of the troops turned their backs on the Asakura troop and once again ran away into the mountains.

Originally, his running speed in dodgeball at high school had been very fast, after coming to the sengoku era and training here, his skills are becoming better and better.

"Nicely done, Sagara Yoshiharu. Before igniting the enemy's explosives, you succeeded in clumping the Asakura troops together."

Without Yoshiharu noticing, Hanzou was silently running beside Yoshiharu while whispering his praises to him unexpectedly.

"Hanzou! That was a little too cruel! That explosion just now blew all the soldiers away!"

"Hmph. Only with that, we can gain some more time.... There's only one bomb left, from now on, it's up to you to guard your life."

"Leave the running to me."

As expected of the 500 who were determined to protect Nobuna's rear, though 10% of the troops had fallen, the rest are supporting and relying on each other with extraordinary strength and will.

To catch up to the ninjas who had very good speed, all of them tried their best to run and not fall back at all.

To Zenki, it was too troublesome to run, so he flew in the air.

In the battlefield, a miracle occurred.

The mist that Zenki emitted, Yoshiharu's "repeated volleys" and the ninja squad under the command of Hanzou were used together with great effect and they had once again evaded the fierce attacks from the Asakura troops.

But, the biggest contribution to this miracle isn't the strategy of "repeated volleys" that were born from tasteless knowledge, but it's the undying will of Yoshiharu's "All are to get to Kyo safely", that allows the heroes to have incomparable morale and loyalty, but only Zenki and Hanzou noticed this.

"The enemy is still chasing us, we can't delay for even a second, but there are still numerous mountains to cross in front of us, if we don't rest, I'm afraid we can't hold on to Kyo."

Pushing at full speed, Yoshiharu was thinking about how to let his companions have a chance to rest, and finally, they rested for a short while after crossing the peak of a mountain, on a narrow mountain path.

Yoshiharu was still worrying about the pursuing soldiers. After deciding to rest, he lay onto a bamboo leaf on the ground and soon snored.

"This fellow, is the same as an ordinary folk, so full of openings." Zenki laughed and said, and the foot soldiers said, "Though he looks like



someone totally not used to war, and the way he uses the arquebus is kinda clumsy, but he is an excellent commander." Everyone nodded happily.

After Yoshiharu rested, he stood up with gust.

"OK! Let us continue on! From now on, we have numerous mountains to cross!"

As of now, not even one of them was afraid of death and fled.

But even so, they had lost many comrades. Half was lost during the battle with the Asakura troops, there were some who thought, "I can't burden the commander due to me not being able to run." and left quietly.

That plump guy with thick eyelashes from Samoa, he's not here anymore.

"Damn it.....! Has that guy died.....!? Damn.....!"

Yoshiharu feels a heart shattering pain.

But even so, if the commander shed tears at such a critical period, the morale will definitely fall. Yoshiharu tried his best to give a bitter smile.

In the darkness of the night, they came to a crossroads.

"Everyone are to go into the mountains, bypassing Echizen and head towards Wakasa!"

Hanzou who had climbed onto a mountain cliff, grumbled.

Straight after this, Yoshiharu and his comrades started climbing the mountain.

No matter who, their bodies were full of wounds.

Continuously getting spotted by the enemy, "Ah, that's the enemy's commander!" and being sniped, Yoshiharu's face and forehead was full of blood. His own blood and the enemy's blood had mixed together. Yoshiharu himself did not know where the wound was.

His stomach was empty, the throat parched.

But his eyes were still sharp, not any signs of giving up were seen.

"Everyone, can you all still run?"

"No problem!"

"I still feel energetic, not a problem!"

"When we feel terrible, once we thought of Hime-sama's smile, our courage was boosted a hundred times! Full of spirit!"

"Then ok! If we run to Wakasa, the enemy can't chase us, it's a little more!"

Ohhhh~! The bloodied suicide squad was still high in morale, but at this moment.

"Not good, Sagara. It seems that the situation had taken a turn for the worse."

Zenki who had normally put on a bored and lazy face, was frowning while whispering to him.

"What is it, Zenki?"

"Wakasa's Tsuchimikado seems to be standing on Asakura's side."

"Tsuchimikado? Who is he?"

".....Japan's Omyouji's leader. In the past, he bears the name of Abe, now he is known as Tsuchimikado and had fled the chaotic Kyo and retired in Wakasa."

"Maybe he is the super omyouji from the Heian era, Abe Seimei's descendant? ..... That's why I was thinking why didn't I see him in Kyo, so he was at Wakasa!" Yoshiharu sighed and said.

"Who do you think this Tsuchimikado to be, he seems to want your head and had opened up a barrier while waiting for us!"

"Ah, a barrier?"

There's just darkness in front of me..... Yoshiharu squinted and look to the front.

In the dark night, there were just uncountable mountain peaks, what can be seen was just this sort of scenery.

Hanzou had added on, "It's a little different from the barriers set by ninjas." and shook his head.

But only Zenki bared his teeth, his eyes emitting a golden glow while he looks at the barrier which was emitting a mysterious light but can't be seen by ordinary people.

"Hmph. The barrier will be upon us once we close in and head towards it."

At the forehead of Zenki's white forehead was a streak of sweat.

Here it is.

Tsuchimikado's omyouji.

Not using his own body.

Not being limited by gravity.

Being supported by a power that can't be seen.

Floating slowly from the mountain.

"This fellow....."

"Tsuchimikado?"

"Yes, I'm the head of the Tsuchimikado clan, Tsuchimikado Hisanaga. We should return to Kyo now, but if that's the case, shouldn't I prepare some gift for Kyo's new masters, Asai-kun and Asakura-kun? Tonight, right here, we decided to get this "Oda clan's Saru" head!"

In front of them was a young kid not more than 10 years old.

A pale face and cold eyes like a doll. As an omyouji, he looks similar to Hanbei, but that icy cold heart is totally different from hers.

But that cold smile revealed his utmost confidence in his own strength.

This small fellow, looks like he isn't ordinary, maybe not even a human. What a detestable child.....

Acting cool, Yoshiharu noticed that he himself is soaked with sweat.

In actual fact, Tsuchimikado Hisanaga is just a child.

But that's why in his small body, a kid's cruelty is hidden in it.

Strength, it looks like his strength is limitless.

So, he wants to use this strength...



To kill his enemies.

Like how a child cruelly ripped off the wings of an insect that he caught.

This is human's nature, there is nothing to be shameful about.

And it's not out of hatred.

Maybe such a childish way to use his own strength is Tsuchimikado Hisanaga's principle.

So.....

Things like respecting life, thinking about others.... To Tsuchimikado Hisanaga who is still a child but already attained the position of the leader of Omyouji, those are needless.

\*Rustle\*

"As expected, the enemy has moved..." Yoshiharu realized.

"As expected, they had ran to Wakasa.... Though Oda Nobuna whose speed is godlike had already escaped to Omi, but if I catch this famous Oda clan's Saru, Asai-kun and Asakura-kun should be very happy....."

"He is still a child, yet he has the intention to kill everyone."

Hanzou threw a shuriken, but it did not hit the body of the floating Tsuchimikado Hisanaga.

As if there was an invisible world protecting Hisanaga.

The heroes who had not yet known the severity of the situation were panting at the side.

And the shikigamis.....

In the night sky, at the back of Tsuchimikado Hisanaga, more than 10 strange shikigamis appeared.

Zenki let out a roar.

"Hisanaga, this Tsuchimikado of yours is just a defeated dog who fled to Wakasa from the mission of protecting Kyo."

".....Hmph! That fox-faced guy, is a shikigami, right? A high rank shikigami who had totally turned into human form like you, I who was the descendant

of Abe Seimei and called the genius omyouji, this is the first time seeing someone like you. But, what is regrettable is that you are alone, right? The strongest point of the shikigami is it's numbers. No matter how capable you are, you can't win against the amount that I've summoned!"

"Hisanaga. What crazy shit are you talking about, saying something like returning to Kyoto. You think this is a child's play?"

Hehe, Hisanaga's red lips tilt upwards while he gave a fake laugh.

"A rural Omyouji like Takenaka may have followed Nobuna over to Kyo. The real leader of the Omyoujis, us Tsuchimikado clan, and I, the one people called the reincarnation of Koumei, we actually do not want such titles. So, though it's troublesome, we still have to go to Kyoto to fight with that ignorant rural Omyouji.... Takenaka and I, just who is the strongest Omyouji, will be understood once we have fought a real battle. Ok, have you understood?"

"You fellows who are floating here and there above me, can't you talk normally below!?"

Yoshiharu jumped with anger while saying to Hisanaga.

"Ha, no matter how you jump, you can't reach me. Are you an idiot?"

No more useless chatter.

I will finish all of you right here.

The surroundings filled with darkness in an instant.....

The numerous shikigamis launched an attack at the troops who had set up camp at the peak of the mountain.

"D...De...Demons have appeared!!!"

"How can we win!?!"

Though they are brave men who can fight many, but to those shikigamis who were violently attacking them from the air, they can only let out a pathetic howl.

Once the morale is lost, no matter how brave the army is, the battle formation will be destroyed in an instant.

One by one, they were blown away like grass.

"To have summoned these amount of shikigamis! Zenki alone cannot win against them! The ninja techniques are useless towards shikigamis too! But, I will never give up!"

Yoshiharu raised his arquebus.

"Da....Damn it!!!"

Even if... My life is fated to end here. I must...

I must....

Endure to the last minute.... TO FIGHT WITH FATE!

## Part 4

"Hime-sama. We have entered Kuchiki Valley! If we can go through here successfully, all that's left is the highway, Kyo is right ahead!"

Oda Nobuna who had abandoned Saru, Sagara Yoshiharu, is now riding her famed horse, "Rigatanakuro" and is speeding through the mountain path of Wakasa.

During the time when they heading out from Kyoto, they were moving pridefully along Lake Biwa on the western Omi streets. But now, the western Omi streets are full of enemy soldiers. Other than going deep into the mountains, there are no other ways to escape.

From the start till now, they had kept on running without rest or sleep.

Tears had dried.

Almost unable to breathe.

In her body, there's not even water inside to shed tears.

Regret.

Anguish.

Pain that threatens to rip her chest apart.

Maybe this enormous pain is going to destroy the weak body of Nobuna.

But.....

Nobuna has to live on!



Even if she was full of wounds from falling down, if she can't go back to Kyo alive, Yoshiharu's sacrifice will become meaningless.

So, Nobuna bites her lips and holds on to her belief.

That dumb-ass who threw away his son, Nagamasa's future, Nobuna's Tenka Fubu's ambition, Yoshiharu's future, Asai Hisamasa! Nobuna is furious!

Even though she is fuming mad, Nobuna held on to the reigns of the horse desperately while she is crying and struggling not to fall from the back of the horse.

But, such fury is already.....

To the point where she can't endure anymore!

"Hime-sama, are you all right? This Kuchiki Valley is governed by Kuchiki Shinano. Shinano is part of the Asai's clan and will most likely stop us from passing. And our retreat route is blocked by the Kuchiki castle, there is no other way than to pass by Kuchiki Valley.

".....Hime-sama. Please wait here for a while."

The 2 protectors, Katsuie and Inichiyo both ran hastily to Nobuna's side.

The two of them were full of wounds too.

From the fact that the forefront soldiers ran back here, this road is out. At that moment, "That is the princess of the Oda clan!" "If caught alive, the reward is a hundred kan, her head itself is worth fifty kan!" The enemy soldiers whose eyes were all lit with bloodlust were swarming at them from all sides.

But, the master Nobuna must return to Kyo as soon as possible. If it's delayed, fake news like "Nobuna is dead" will spread out, and who knows what Kyo might turn into. Only escaping from the enemies' hands, and returning back to Kyo will allow the army to regroup so as to fight Asai and Asakura. Even if the possibility is as small as a bean, we must fight for the chance to save Yoshiharu....

Because Nobuna has to return to Kyo as soon as possible, she has to put her focus on speed.

Now, the aides protecting Nobuna are already at the least.

What's left is the brave Shibata Katsuie and the child, Maeda Inuchiyo, who is swinging her huge bamboo spear.

Without these two loyal aides protecting her, Nobuna's head might have fallen multiple times.

"Hi...Hime-sama"

".....Negotiate with Kuchiki Shinano, let him become one of us."

".....Must."

Nobuna struggled to keep her two eyes open, and her speech no longer had that air of superiority with it.

".....Where is Manchiyo and the rest?"

"To allow the rearmost troops to retreat safely, Nagahide is opening up more paths of retreat into the mountains, Mitsuhide and Motoyasu are helping too."

".....Dearuka. That is kinda unnecessary...."

"Hime-sama! Unnecessary? Everyone is fighting for their lives to not let Saru die! Please get your spirits up! Hime-sama!"

".....That... is hypocritical. Now that Saru is abandoned and dying.... What everyone is doing is useless."

"Hime!? Wh...What is happening to you!? This isn't like you, Hime!"

"Oi, Riku..... When Father became sick, didn't he call many monks to do those rituals to pray?"

"Y...Yes? There was such a thing, but....."

".....Those monks were chanting those useless incantations, in the end, Father didn't get better. They came to do those rituals because we were worried about Father's illness. What I want to say is this. Those monks used this weak psychology on us to earn them money.. So I, locked them up in the hall and burned all of them together. I hate cheaters, they had known that the rituals aren't going to let Father become better, yet we still allowed them to come..... That is, hypocrisy...."

"Y...Yo....You're right, Hime-sama. At...At that time when the hall was burning, no one was thinking to save them!"

"At that time, Hime-sama was totally furious.... just like the sixth demon lord....." Katsuie said.

".....Father's burial was totally unnecessary too. Dead people turned to ashes. Things like pain or suffering, such feelings will be gone. We hold burials, letting those monks chant, everyone crying on the floor, in the end, those are all for us.... Us with a sad face.... To a dead person, what shit use is that? So I, was like a hooligan, rushed into Father's burial and made a big mess....."

".....And Saru's retreat? I already know that they aren't coming back..... Ah. We let them protect our rear.... In actual fact, we ordered them to "die"..... And then we hypocritically create retreat paths for them. Those are mere attempts to satisfy ourselves, just like a burial. Really, so laughable.... But.... But, the one who ordered Saru to "die".... isn't Manchiyo.... but, ME..... Uhh, uhhhhh"

I had thought that originally, the tears had already ran dry.

But... they still flows down.

From the depths of the eyes..... the depths of the soul, tears seemingly squeezed out.

"Ahh, Hime-sama..... Hime-sama is becoming stranger and stranger! Hime-sama, just why!?"

The sobbing Katsuie was panicking around.

At her side.

\*Boom\*

".....Hime-sama, please give this a rest."

Inuchiyo gave a hard punch to Nobuna.

".....Crying is useless. If Hime-sama dies, the sacrifice of Yoshiharu and his troops will become meaningless!"

"W...W...W...Wh...Why, Inuchiyo!?" Katsuie howled.

".....Inuchiyo.....? Wh...What am I doing.....? This place is.... Where is it....?"

".....This is Kuchiki Valley. We must negotiate with Kuchiki Shinano now."



"Ye....Yeah."

".....Hime-sama. Yoshiharu is alive. Right now, we must believe in him. Nagahide and the rest are the same, we must believe in them. They are doing such a risky job as to open more retreat paths for Yoshiharu while they themselves, are retreating. And those who volunteered to protect us are with Yoshiharu, those soldiers who we don't even know their names, Hime-sama should not be so cruel now!"

Ah, Nobuna looked upon these aides as she opened her eyes.

Yoshiharu, I can't leave Yoshiharu himself on the battlefield.

The 500 soldiers that were moved by Yoshiharu's loyalty, for Yoshiharu, and for Nobuna, they had been continuing on the spirit of the suicide squad. Most of them are mercenaries, they could have escaped or betrayed us.....

I worry for Saru.... Saru threw his life away for me, yet I had forgotten all about them! Forgotten the importance of their lives.....

Nobuna, to not let Inuchiyo and Katsuie worry for herself even more, revealed a smile.

"....Thanks, Inuchiyo. Wh...What had I been doing. Yes, how can Saru die so easily!? I must, I must kick their butt, let them evade the Asakura troops, and hide in the mountains in order to escape!"

".....\*Nods\*"

"As the commander, how can I weep here like this. Sorry, Inuchiyo. Once we reach Kyo, I will give all you guys Uiroumochi."

".....\*Nod\*Nod\*"

"Hime-sama has woken up! Inuchiyo! And Saru, I must not let people like you worry for such a Hime-sama.... Definitely not!!"

"....Inuchiyo too, will take up her spear to attack once Yoshiharu returns. To cry and die due to protecting our rear, that isn't Yoshiharu's style!"

"Ok.....! This resolve is rare, Inu-chan! Let us try our best for Saru!"

".....Destroy the enemy!!"

Katsuie and Inuchiyo were encouraging Nobuna, while Nobuna endured her tears and let out a sigh.

"They did not cry even once ever since we escaped from Kanegasaki castle.... Actually, Riku and Inuchiyo were feeling so sad that they wanted to cry out loud.... yet they endured it for me. To not let me become even sadder.... How can I be so weak....."

Another urge to cry rushed up her heart, but Nobuna forced it down.

"I've decided. Before reaching Kyo safely, I will not shed another tear!"

An oath seared in her heart, with her hand blocking the sunlight, she looks upon Kuchiki castle.

"Kuchiki Valley.... is really like a ninja hiding by the side of Kyo. I'm afraid it won't be easy to pass through, Inuchiyo?"

".....Afraid so. Kuchiki Valley is the evacuation area for the numerous Ashikaga shoguns, a very special place. No matter who, if they tried to pass through with force, the other side will launch an attack."

"Dearuka. Now is really the time to buck up."

"But, who should we send to negotiate with Kuchiki Shinano, I don't know the guy, Inuchiyo?"

Katsuie said.

".....Not letting Inuchiyo go."

"If Nagahide or Mitsuhide were here, I will let them go, should I wait for them to return?"

"No can do, Riku. Kuchiki Shinano belongs to the Asai clan, right? If so, we don't know when they will attack us, just sneaking in is too dangerous."

And, we need to hurry back to Kyo, and announce to the world, "I, Oda Nobuna am still here.", regroup my army..... And I have to hurry and send reinforcements for Saru.... These words were swallowed down by Nobuna with difficulty.

"Ye...Yes! But if I'm the envoy, I will most likely mess things up.... I, am not comfortable in negotiating. When I'm talking to Kuchiki, what will I do if I just killed him on impulse, Hime-sama?"

"Hmph... Are you dumb, Riku? The situation we're in now has to be running forward all the time. If all we do are to say such stuff, then we will never be able to escape. It's as if we are strangling ourselves!"

"Ah, I understand! Wa, I'm really sorry.... My brain short circuited just now....."

"Brain... short circuited?"

"That is what Saru will say, Hime-sama. Though I don't really understand the meaning, but it's a saying when I'm being stupid. It seems to mean that I'm behaving stupidly, or electric currents unable to flow through... I'm getting furious when talking about this! Saru that bastard!!!!!"

"What a Saru-like style."

Inuchiyo was tilting her head left to right.....

But it isn't about following the situation, but as if she was a clever introvert trying to express that it's useless to send out an envoy.

"If it needs so much linguistic skills, then let me go. Ok, I will directly negotiate with Kuchiki Shinano!"

Nobuna had decided and was about to gallop away on her horse.

"Nonononononono, Hime-sama! If you do that, things will get worse! You are like a moth flying towards a candle flame, you won't return!"

"...Definitely not. Hime-sama might have good linguistic skills, but your words are often harsh and self-centered, if you provoked the other party, things will become much worse."

Katsuie and Inuchiyo rushed forward to stop Nobuna.

"But, just who will go and negotiate?"

".....Hmmm, then let me go."

In the deep bushes.....

Wearing a china outfit, tanned skin, sitting upright and puffing out her chest, a woman was slowly approaching them.

"Hisahide?"

".....Matsunaga Danjo."



Matsunaga Danjo Hisahide.

Also known as, "Venomous Scorpion."

A repeated offender on revolting that had plunged Kyo into a state of chaos.

Burning the great Buddha of Nara, poisoning her master and the Miyoshi clan, attacking Ashikaga Yoshiteru and destroying the Ashikaga Shogunate amongst other dark legends, the poisonous flower that blooms in the sengoku era.

Biting a long tobacco pipe, her face revealing an alluring smile while she looks at the surprised stares of Nobuna and the rest.

"Where had you been for such a long while? Didn't you flee?"

".....This fellow appearing here suddenly is weird, she might be doing something that betrays Hime-sama."

"Hehe. Yes, if I betray Nobuna-sama today, then I will get back the right to control Kyoto again. What do you think, Nobuna-sama? If I help you to negotiate with Shinano, then.... defect to Asai and Asakura."

You bastard~! Katsuie glared at her, while her hands held her sword tightly, at this moment, Nobuna stopped Katsuie.

"Danjo! I'll leave it to you. No matter what, I must live and go back to Kyoto! You must hurry, hurry! I'm relying on you!"

"Hime-sama! How can you trust someone like her!? Someone like her.....!"

Once again, Katsuie was stopped, Nobuna and Hisahide looked at each other and nodded.

Towards the evil girl, Oda Nobuna who "Viper" Saitou Dousan is said to dote on, she seems very interested somehow.

Capturing Mino, Dousan who was fighting to unify the world by using trade, to Nobuna who claims to "Tenka Fubu", he is like a teacher, a second father.

She who had broken traditions again and again, to Matsunaga Danjo Hisahide, Nobuna who had been disliked by her mother due to her not following traditions was almost the same.... One can even say that Nobuna had finally met a "mother-like" figure for the first time.

"Nobuna-sama? Now, you guys are the danjo who is controlling Kyo. Oda Danjo-sama Nobuna, right now, I'm just a shadow working under you."

"Enough. Danjo is Danjo. You should just call me "Nobuna"."

"Ok, I know it's the position that was given to you by the Gose, sorry. But I actually like those guys."

After a short pause, she narrowed her eyes to a slit, while laughing and straightening her body, Hisahide started to gallop away towards Kuchiki castle.

"What is lucky is, the other party is still immature. It will be soon that we can contact Kuchiki Shinano."

Using her own long and red tongue to lick her lips, Hisahide who was known as the evil woman reveals a trademark-like dark smile.

Till now, this evil woman's smile had poisoned away how many people, just who had seen it all.....

Katsuie shivered.

With a face that came from the blood of the far western areas of the world, her beauty is seemingly not like a human, and at the same time, it can be said to be very terrifying.

"Ahhh.... Oi Inuchiyo, it's not that I don't mind. Why is Hime-sama allying herself with such a demon?"

"....Ah....Isn't easy to say."

"To use it's own stomach as bait for the venomous scorpion and viper. The world really has no good animals."

".....Dogs, are good animals."

"Oioi, are you listening, Riku?"

"I'm....I'm sorry!"

"Right now, all we can do is to entrust our fate to Danjo, Danjo will definitely not betray me." Nobuna nodded her head heavily.

"Ah, Ahh, isn't this Matsunaga Danjo!? Such tanned skin, as expected from a well seasoned warrior." At Kuchiki castle, the one who met with her is Kuchiki Shinano, as a castle owner, he is extremely young.

A place when distinguish people retire, he who was born in Kuchiki, for a sengoku warrior, his body build is very thin.

"Hehe. I was born with this skin color. On the battlefield, I did not receive any injuries, so I maintained my young looks."

That alluring smile and the huge bosom that was revealed from her clothes had all made Shinano very confused.

The fan was opened up in an instant while Shinano revealed a scared smile.

".....Ok, I've heard of Matsunaga Danjo being the most evil of persons having destroyed the Ashikaga Shogunate and burning Nara's great Buddha, but right now, you aren't quite the same."

"I'm just an ordinary folk in Kyo, there isn't much to talk about."

"Even so, I can't agree to your request."

"Oi, I haven't even said anything."

"I had received reports saying that Oda Nobuna had ran from Echizen to here? Don't think that you can just pass Kuchiki Valley like this."

That is impossible, Kuchiki Shinano revealed such an expression.

"I don't want to let Oda Nobuna think that I'm hers. After being betrayed by the Asai clan and gradually sinking into oblivion, if I allowed her to return to Kyoto, Asai and Asakura will attack Kyo together, and she won't last a minute."

"You are wrong."

"Matsunaga Danjo. Don't tell me you think that Asai is a despicable traitor and Oda Nobuna is the right one? You destroyed Ashikaga shogun, from an evil woman like you saying such hypocritical words, I can not trust Oda Nobuna even more."

"I believe that Oda Nobuna is strong, don't tell me you think otherwise?"

"Oda Nobuna has already lost."

"No, winning and losing are common matters to warriors. As long as one lives on, he or she can once again rise up. What the one who is victorious in the end needs is determination, determination to never give up."

"Asai and Asakura's determination isn't enough, but Nobuna's is?"

"Yes."

Hisahide face revealed her gentle smile while she glanced into Shinano's eyes.

"Let's leave this discussion for another time, Danjo-dono, we will know soon enough how to proceed in the future. How about a cup of tea?"

"Hehe, thank you so much."

"At this moment, should I kill Matsunaga Danjo....or....." While his heart is struggling, Shinano's uneasy expression revealed itself on his face.

On the other side, Matsunaga Hisahide had already decided on a plan to enter Kuchiki castle.

If Kuchiki Shinano dared to say no, then the true nature of the scorpion will show itself, the numerous puppets using crimson flames will surround the whole Kuchiki residence.....

"For the me right now, to be able to accept someone like me, Nobuna-sama is really a cute girl. If you betray this little girl and cause her defeat while you yourself lived on like a coward, at that time, I will kill all who stand in my way..... If you dare to say "No", no matter how many years, how many decades, I will kill everyone in this valley, no, all the animals, the plants, all of them, not one will be left living."

Hisahide's heart moved.

Her love, her hatred that does not fit her face, Hisahide seems to have feelings that are much more than a normal Japanese.

Facing such a fake smile, the dark and overwhelming killing intent that is emitting everywhere from her, the young Shinano retreated in an instant.

"Shinano-sama? How about letting me prepare the tea?"

Shinano swallowed his saliva.

"You, don't tell me, you want to poison me?"



"Hehe, it's regrettable, but I've been asked by Nobuna-sama to not poison any advisors. Right now, in some way, you may still be Nobuna-sama's advisor or Asai's man, so I can't be that rude to you yet."

"Are you threatening me? I... I am not a guy that is so easily intimidated."

"Relax, there isn't any poison."

First, Hisahide used her own touch to lick the tea.

That soft red tongue, licking the teacup like a soft invertebrate.

Once again, Shinano swallowed his saliva, but, this time round, the meaning of it is different.

His brain is numb.

In this room, not knowing when, a strange aroma.... A scent that Shinano had never known before, a sweet fragrance was filling the room.

"Shinano-sama, don't tell me you don't believe me?"

"Poi...Poisoning someone is too easy, the teacup might have something hidden in it, the part that you licked might not have poison, but the rest of it will have, isn't it right?"

"Hehe, if so, let me show you, the proof that the rest of it wasn't smeared with poison."

\*Lick\*

\*Lick\*

Hisahide's eyes were narrowed into a slit while she glanced at Shinano's eyes, putting the teacup on her palm, she licked all the sides of it.

That extremely alluring body, Shinano is already panting, his whole body hot with passion.

".....Weird... Such a weird feeling..... This fragrance.....?"

"Hehe, \*lick\* Ok, like this, there is no problem touching any side of the teacup, I had already used my own tongue to clean it all up. But if you think my saliva is poisonous, then your life will be in danger."

"....Ca...Can human's saliva be poisonous?"

Shinano's hand received Hisahide's teacup unknowingly.

Hisahide's..... teacup that is filled with that alluring saliva.

"Not... Not poison... No... I should say.... It's fragrant... This.... This taste is fragrant....?"

"Come. Do something, because I'm a scorpion. Ah.... Hahaha."

Shinano can no longer detect Hisahide's weird behavior.

Hisahide is soaked with sweat, while she is panting allot.

In between the deep valley of her breasts, the sweat flowed through them.

But, that fragrance that seemingly numbing the brain.....

Shinano starts going berserk.

Drink.... tea.....

Drinking the saliva that Hisahide left behind, that extremely fragrant fluid.

At that instant.

"So...So refreshing... So... So comfortable. Such a wonderful tea, this is my first time drinking it....."

Shinano's overflowing saliva dripped drop by drop onto the ground while he laughed out loud.

".....Dan...Danjo.... No...Now that I think about it.... It's... It's not like I can't agree with you.... ha...Hahaha."

Hisahide lied down, letting her outfit fall from her shoulder, another hand shaking the fan while she smiled like a little girl.

".....I... I can't take it anymore. Ah....Ahhhh. Come... Come and hug me, if you hug me, let Nobuna pass.... is...isn't a problem, right? Haha!"

".....Hehehe, it's my honor."

"The dark brown skin of foreigners, haha....! Now that I see it, so beautiful.... So beautiful.....!"

".....Then, Shinano-sama? Please embark, on your never ending sweet dreams."

Hisahide's lips gave a light kiss to Shinano's ears, and suddenly something seemed to went in.

"Ah, Ahhh, what is this.... My ear.....!"

"Hehe.... You, are already one of my puppets."

Ahhhh!!!

In Shinano's ears, a hot fluid was injected in an instant.

Hisahide left Shinano's side while laughing loudly.

"He, hehehe. For someone like you who doesn't know anything to hug me, come back after another 10 years. Be played around by me in your dreams!"

".....Wh...What did you do.... Whore!"

In an instant, Shinano returned to his senses.

This strange fragrance.... And the saliva that Danjo smeared onto the teacup.... Damn it, I've fallen for Danjo's tricks!

".....Don't tell me, you planned to keep the poison in your mouth and then smear it on the teacup....? And gambled that I will fall for it....! Hmph, interesting.... Ahhh, but this fragrance, what is this rotten fruit-like fragrance.....?"

And, this sudden return to senses was extinguished like a flame being put out.

Suddenly, Shinano tilt his head like a puppet.

".....Ok, I got it. I will allow Oda Nobuna to pass. And at the same time, protect her on her way to Kyo. I, Kuchiki Shinano, will be the comrade of Oda Nobuna from now on, the puppet of the Oda clan.  
Ahahaha....hahahaha!"

At the same time, Hisahide who had breathe in the same toxin laughed.

"It's an honor, an honor." To her victim who had just fallen for her tricks, she opened her arms and bowed.

"Nobuna-sama, everything is within our control, Shinano has agreed to arrange for guards to send you back to Kyo."

Katsuie and Nobuna were shocked while looking at each other.

Who could have thought that... Who could have thought that she can even get soldiers from Shinano as bodyguards, what an unexpected outcome.

Just how did Matsunaga Hisahide manage to persuade Shinano?

And, why did Hisahide feel so weird, an indescribable fragrance was in the air.

Ah.....Katsuie suddenly shouted.

"Yo...Yo...You fellow, don't tell me, you did something disgusting, so as to let Shinano join our side?"

"Hehe. I did not do anything disgusting. I... am not such a despicable woman, at most, I just did something unpleasant, hehe, hehehehe."

Ahhhh.... Katsuie was shocked.

Demonic... Demonic woman.....!

"Hi...Hime-sama! Danjo, we can't let her follow us, if she did something bad, she won't admit it anyway!"

"Now isn't the time to consider such things, Riku. Now, full speed ahead to Kyo! With these guards, we are no longer afraid of any pursuing soldiers!"

Inuchiyo lowered her head deeply.

## Part 7

"Not good, we have been discovered, get down now!"

Ahhhhhhh.....!

The shikigami army is still searching for Yoshiharu and his gang.

Yoshiharu and the others had hidden themselves in the bushes and above their heads, large numbers of shikigamis are flying around.

These low intelligence life forms are floating in the air like vultures searching for dying warriors.

From then on, Yoshiharu and the rest were pursued by the shikigami and the Asakura troops, while hiding from villagers and local warriors who are searching for escaping warriors.

At this point, the companions that remained were less than half.

Half of them, were either killed by the pursuing soldiers or dropped out due to heavy injuries.

Yoshiharu and the others' visions started to blur, they are already so tired that they do not know whether they are alive or not.

Everyone had no more strength left to carry on.

"....Is it day... or night? .....Where is this, Hanzou?"

"The boundary between Wakasa and Western Omi, near Mizuzaka kai.

"Damn it.... We just reached the entrance of Omi? It's still far from Kyo."

Since that time when Tsuchimikado Hisanaga surrounded them with the barrier, Yoshiharu and the half that remained fired a shot of the arquebus near midnight.

Why is there the sound of an arquebus shot? The shikigamis hate such a sound. A high level shikigami like Zenki is able to endure the fear rationally, but these low level shikigami cannot hide their fear towards the arquebus.

In the past, Zenki had told him shikigami's weakness, Yoshiharu realized it unknowingly or coincidentally.

Maybe, the arquebus that Yoshiharu and the rest have may be enough to scare those Tsuchimikado's shikigami away.

Let's do it! Yoshiharu led the rest of the 40 cannon squad and fired together at the night sky.

The shikigamis fled, and during the period they are panicking, by some miracle, Yoshiharu and the rest managed to break the barrier and they started on their escape back to Kyo.

But Tsuchimikado who had his sights on Yoshiharu's head is incredibly persistent.

As if it will be a scar on his own pride, he chased after Yoshiharu.



And Yoshiharu and his gang had already used up the rest of the ammunition.

If they were caught by the shikigamis again, there isn't enough gunpower for another volley.

And, in the worst case scenerio, if the pursuing shikigamis catch up with them on the retreat paths that Niwa Nagahide opened up for them, they have no choice but to go onto the mountain paths that are full of dangerous beasts.

While they were moving slowly, there were numerous dropouts.

"Now is the period to decide the victor."

Lowering his face, Yoshiharu waved at Zenki, Hanzou and the representative of the troops, they gathered together for a meeting. Those people who escaped with them had already displayed strength far exceeding that of a normal human as they can't even straighten their body.

"We are totally helpless towards Wakasa's Tsuchimikado. If this goes on, we will all be eliminated. Does anyone have some good ideas?"

"Those demons, no matter how we see it, we can't win against them..... If we can use spears and stab wildly at the sky to scare them away....." The soldiers were hugging their heads while saying.

Someone that is able to hit the flying shikigamis with arquebus, there isn't anyone in the troops.

Scaring them and running away, though they want to do this, the ammo left isn't much, they had to shoot to kill for them to escape.

So as to say, the one solution left is to bet everything on their arquebus, but if they finished up the ammo, everyone will be dead.

"I'm sorry, Commander! Our brains are useless, and we don't know what to do!"

"If this goes on, the commander and Hime-sama can't meet again."

"You guys, don't say such things anymore! Right now, we have to get what remains of us back to Kyo! Never... Never do any sacrifice anymore!"

"Yoshiharu-sama, don't be disheartened!"

"Yes! With you thinking about us, we are satisfied. But in the end, you are different from us foot soldiers."

".....No. Looking at our companions falling one by one, I had gradually realized that there is no difference in value of life....."

"Commander! Now is not the time to talk about this philosophy, look at the situation now! If the commander died at such a situation, what should Hime-sama do!?"

"As a man, I had already sworn an oath to protect you to my death, if you dismiss us at this moment, I won't forgive you for the rest of my life, Yoshiharu-sama!"

"Yes! Let us fulfill our own dreams. Yoshiharu-sama!"

You all.... Uhhh.... All of you.... bastards....! You guys... and me, we are all idiots whose heart was taken away by Oda-sama! If it's not Nobuna, I don't care about the rest, but this time round, I had make my resolve to claim the reward that's rightfully mine.....!

Slowly, a weak grace that is unique to commanders was revealed, Yoshiharu held the hands of the soldiers together, he had thought that there will be an outburst of laughter, but in the end, all he could hear is their rhythmic panting.

"Here it comes again...." "It hasn't stopped from last night." Hanzou and Zenki who were never tired were looking at each other while nodding.

"Hmmm, to be jealous off my master Hanbei's activities, the Tsuchimikado clan has really fallen. Anyway, they are the heads of omyoujis from the last era of Abe Seimei's line of omyoujis. The time has really changed."

Zenki jumped around like a frog while sighing.

"Yoshiharu. The era of omyoujis should have ended long ago."

"But the Tsuchimikado of now isn't weak! Is there a way to defeat all of those ominous shikigamis, Zenki? If not, they will be searching for us like those aircrafts from the air force."

Hmmm, though I don't really understand the namban language.... but Zenki laughed.

"Though I don't know what is "aircraft", but our strength as of now is too weak, we can't fight against that amount of shikigamis. And part of the reason is also compared to Kyo, there is a difference in courage to defeat them too."

"Then, what should we do? It's nothing if it's just man to man, but to face off against a shikigami, what will the modern man do?"

"If so, we should seal their dragon hole and cut the dragon vein around this area."

"Dragon hole? Dragon vein?"

What are those words that just entered his ears? Yoshiharu does not understand.

"The dragon vein is the pathway that "Ki" flows from the ground. The dragon hole is the main area of the dragon veins and it's a special place that "Ki" flows out."

If we imagine the flowing of "Ki" as railways.... Then the dragon vein is the railways that "Ki" travels and the dragon holes are the train stations that "Ki" flows in and out, Yoshiharu nodded.

"The shikigamis who were summoned from talismans need to maintain their life by absorbing the "Ki" from the dragon hole. So as to say, if we seal the dragon holes nearby, the shikigamis will become weaker." Hanzou whispered.

"Hmmm, if we can find a big dragon hole and seal it, we should be able to finish these shikigamis. At most, I might disappear with them. Since my master, Hanbei used just 5 talismans to summon me, it's already not easy for me to move for such a long period of time.

Seems workable.... If we are able to make these shikigamis disappear, even if Zenki isn't around, it will be much more advantageous for the path ahead. Shikigamis disappearing isn't death, so even if Zenki disappears here, they should be able to meet in Kyoto.

"So where is it, the dragon hole?"

"Dragon holes are commonly found in the mountains, normally caves or big holes on the ground. Places with dragon holes normally had shrines erected near them so as to prevent "Ki" to be used for evil purposes. It's

like the one who protects Kyoto's gate of demons, Mount Hiei is actually Kyo's biggest shrine.

"To build shrines at strategic spots, so that's the meaning." Yoshiharu said.

"Then, let's find the shrine and then destroy it!"

"Ok, let's go and find it!"

"Wa...Wa...Wait up you guys! If you just go search like this, you will be the target for those who are searching for escapees! And, you may be found by the shikigami army.

Yoshiharu stopped the soldiers.

"At such deep mountain areas, we have to assume that there aren't any shrines erected near dragon holes. I'm afraid Tsuchimikado has chased us to a place where there are no shrines so as to not let us find any dragon holes."

Zenki's eyes glittered while he nodded.

Ok, we will do it this way!

Yoshiharu straightened up his body.

"Then, let's go! Where off first, Zenki!?"

"Find caves."

"I get it, there are still many caves emitting smoke! Because caves are actually holes that are opened up on the ground.

The heroes of the troops all nod their head while whispering, "Ohhhh."

These people, taking what's left of their ammo and weapons, turned to the enemy.

They searched in the mountains for nearly half an hour.

Zenki, taking a rope down to the bottom of a valley pointed to a cave while shouting, "There!"

"Hmmm, this "Ki" that is rising up, if we seal such a place....."

But.....

At that time, those people in the troops had already reached the limit of their exhaustion and excitement and had already lost their cool heads.

"Ok, let's go!"

"Seal it off!"

"If so, the commander can return to Kyo!"

"Wait, you guys. This might be a trap laid by Tsuchimikado. First we should let the ninja squad check things....."

Though Zenki tried to stop them, but they had already climbed down the cliff and ran towards the cave.

Yoshiharu too said, "Can't help it", and slipped down from the cliff while protecting his arquebus.

But.

There was really a trap.

In the cave, there are numerous shikigamis under the control of Tsuchimikado and they flew out in an instant.

The heroes of the troops at this moment, all of them had the resolve to battle to their deaths.

We've fallen for their trap!

"Sagara-sama, run!"

"We will be your shield to stop them!"

"No, don't say such stupid things! I won't abandon you all!"

Yoshiharu took his arquebus and rushed to the front.

These companions that had come with him through such a long way, Yoshiharu cannot abandon any of them.

"Hisanaga!!! Come out, you bastard!!! Your hands are full of blood! Playing with peoples' lives like it's nothing!!!"

Shooting with his arquebus non-stop, soon, the ammo had finished.



One by one, the heroes were caught by the claws of the monsters in the sky while they were shredded.

If this goes on, all of us will be eliminated!

Looking at the tragic scene in front of him while he went down from the cliff, Zenki whispered, "Oi, Hanzou. If this goes on, I will be lectured by my master. Hurry and take Sagara Yoshiharu away."

Suddenly, Hattori Hanzou appeared out of nowhere and whispered too, ".....No. The ammo is depleted. There is nowhere to run. Sagara Yoshiharu had made his resolve, right?"

"If that's the case, let us kill him."

Hanzou laughed lightly, and glanced at Zenki.

".....Understood."

And nodded softly.

He jumped suddenly but silently.

Hanzou threw a smoke bomb at the chaotic battle and the shikigamis can't see clearly for a while.

All the while being silent, he grabbed Yoshiharu from the back.

"Release me, Hanzou! I'm going to battle to my last breath here!"

"Hmph, don't tell me you want to look with your own eyes at these soldier's death?"

"It's the same if we run away, so we should just die together while fighting!"

"Oda Nobuna said the same thing at Kanegasaki castle, but she decided in the end for you to protect her rear even though you might be killed, why?"

"That fellow, is the leader of a province, she must live! But, I....."

".....You, don't tell me you feel that everything is okay since you have no attachments? Sagara Yoshiharu, are you saying that now? From your heart?"

".....That..."

Actually, it might be so. But... So many soldiers died for me. And, Nobuna shedded tears for me.....

I can't do such a thing.....!

But, if I sacrifice myself, it's a fact that my companions might be saved. Tsuchimikado is aiming for me only.

Yoshiharu wiped the blood left on his forehead and the tears in his eyes as he swallowed his saliva.

"Then Yoshiharu, I ask you again, will you die for your companions?"

"Ahhh! I don't want to give Nobuna up.... Ah, damn it, I don't wanna die! But, I don't want to abandon my companions! I, want too much! I'm sorry that I want things to be perfect!"

"Ok then, you will die right here. Sagara Yoshiharu, Oda clan's rising star. The hero of Sunomata Ichiya castle, if the one whose head has a bounty is to die here, Tsuchimikado or those who are searching for you to have the bounty will all lose their motive. Other than that, there is no other way."

".....Hmmm? Hanzou? You.....?"

"It seems like, it's over."

Finally, someone walked out of the cave, Tsuchimikado Hisanaga flapped the fan in his hand.

The smoke that Hanzou released was blown away.

Tsuchimikado had appeared.

Hattori Hanzou who is soaked with blood.

That frozen expression of him as he held a dagger at Sagara Yoshiharu's neck.

Zenki who was supposed to come down from the cliff.... is missing.

Looks like he ran after seeing the result.

Or he was defeated by the shikigami army and disappeared....

Originally, he is a high level shikigami, but his "Ki" is too weak.

Maybe he spent it on maintaining his human body.

"No matter what, it seems like I'm the victor. As long as I have the head of this Saru, I don't care about these puny soldiers. It's too troublesome, let them escape."

At this moment, Hanzou answered.

"I understand. I will take my last wages to destroy Sagara Yoshiharu's body!"

## Part 8

Before this, before Yoshiharu launched the final battle with the Shikigami army.

Nobuna had also started on her journey.

Sagara Yoshiharu, must have already....

The pounding of her heart.

Even during the time when Father passed away, it wasn't that painful.

Father passed away from sickness.

And the reason why Yoshiharu died is....

And.

Nobuna had sworn not to cry again.

Rather than dying from protecting those who should be protected, the one living on should... The one whose lives had been entrusted to, after going through a long period of sobbing, pain, even suffering, those can't be endured.

"If I die at this moment, Saru's death will no longer hold any meaning. No, Saru is still living. Yes. Manchiyo and the rest had already prepared retreat paths while retreating themselves... And there is such a clever Juubei there too.... I believe, I believe that he is living right now!"

Near the streets of Wakasa, on the mountain paths that Nobuna took to go to Kyoto, for the first time in her life, while she is riding, she crossed her hands and lowered her head, praying to God or Buddha who she don't even know whether exist.

The tears that had been shed in the burial, the memories of the monks praying, all of those were so detestable.

But now, she had become less selfish and less self-centered.

It's not far now, from Kyoto.

Now, she had almost reached Kyoto.

With lightning speed that no one had expected, Oda Nobuna had returned.

Oda Nobuna died? Shikoku's Miyoshi three will definitely launch another attack on Kyoto upon hearing the news. And the Kouga who had been hidden till now and the Rokoku Yoshitaka who is planning to rise again.

And, the Asai Asakura army who believes that there are no more obstacles ahead of them from capturing Kyoto.

With this, I can greatly diminish their strength.

It is almost confirmed.

As long as there is still a female warrior like Oda Nobuna, the Oda army will rise again.

For this ambition, Nobuna had given up.

Given up that dream.

That, seemingly unattainable dream.

Even so.

She did not cry.

Always revealing a smile.

To make her body a little lighter, she had even stripped off her armor and had ridden the horse with just robes.

Even so, there was still a thing that she can't abandon no matter what.

In her chest, the gift that Yoshiharu gave her... The future namban clock, Nobuna held it tightly in her hand.

"Riku! Where are we?"

"Hime-sama, we are now at the western side of Mount Hiei! Once we pass this, Kyoto is right ahead!"

Katsuie squinted her eyes and said.

The long night had finally changed to light.

"Ok. Inuchiyo, Danjo. Now we don't have to worry about whether the horse can take it or not. Full speed ahead!"

".....Roger."

"Roger"

At the other side of the mountain peak, the scenery that was before them is the Kyoto castle.

"I'm still alive. You gave me this life. I'm waiting for you, Saru."

Nobuna's horses were standing at the foremost of the troops.

At this moment.

From the two sides of the mountain path filled with thick forests, a gunshot sound suddenly rang out.

A shot.

And then.

Another shot.





Though it's detestable, but Nobuna felt something had pierce her soft belly.

At this moment, the small body of Nobuna had already...

From her horse, she had fallen down.

Violently, the senses she got from the body had disappeared.

".....So...Sorry, Yoshiharu....."

Her eyes were full of..... tears.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

## Chapter 2 : Finely Hidden

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### Part 1

Dawn, Kyoto.

"The Oda army had retreated back to Kyoto from Echizen in shame."

"Sagara Yoshiharu who was leading the troops at the back had not returned."

"Though Oda Nobuna had abandoned Yoshiharu and escaped towards Kyoto, she was still sniped at Mount Hiei and had suffered serious injuries."

Kyoto is in an uproar, rumors are flying about,

Nene is still waiting for Yoshiharu's return at Myoukaku Temple.

But, Yoshiharu did not return.

Hanbei who is trustworthy is still unconscious.

"Nobuna-sama is ok, and is currently recuperating at Honnou temple."

Nene who had heard of the rumors ran towards Honnou temple barefooted.

The soldiers on patrol found her and after getting the permission of Niwa Nagahide, she entered the inner areas of Honnou temple.

"Niwa-sama, Onii-sama had not returned yet?"

"There isn't any news yet, Nene-dono."

"But, didn't the Oda army retreat safely from the efforts of Niwa-sama and the rest? Isn't now the time to save Onii-sama!?"

"Umm.... Because things have become troublesome, the current situation is just 1 point."

"Troublesome?"

"After hearing that the Oda army is currently in a perilous state, the Miyoshi three who were supposed to have fled to Shikoku have gathered once more. Also, Rokoku Yoshitaka, who was hiding in Kouga has risen again at

southern Omi. What is the most troubling is, the Asai-Asakura allied forces are nearing Kyoto."

"But if that's the case, Onii-sama can't see Hime-sama, isn't that so, if we plead with Hime-sama directly, she will..."

"That.... I'm afraid it's impossible, Nene-dono."

Nagahide brought Nene to Nobuna's room,

But, there wasn't a highly spirited and energetic Nobuna in the room like always.

The tiger skin, globe and the namban telescope had all disappeared.

What had replaced all of them, was a single mattress.

"Hime-sama!?"

Nobuna is lying on it.

Her abdomen had several layers of dressing, and these dark red dressings that were soaked with her blood scared Nene.

"Uhh....Uhh....:

Nobuna looks weak as her whole body is covered with sweat.

It seems she isn't conscious.

At Nobuna's side, is the renowned doctor, Manase Belchior who is wearing a white robe.

"Ohh, this is a battlefield, don't let small children come in."

"...Ahh...Ahh...Hime-sama...Hime-sama was... was really sniped....?"

Nene collapsed onto the tatami, her voice... was already mixed with sounds of crying.

"Shots to the abdomen, 2 shots, it's already a miracle that she managed to live through it. In actual fact, if it's not Nobuna-chan, this amount of blood loss is already fatal. Nobuna-chan has really extraordinary will."

"Shots!?"

"Have done namban style surgery and already taken out the bullets in her body. If the bullets had penetrated the intestines, even I can't do anything... It was due to this thing that she managed to survive the shots."

Manase Belchior took the spoilt namban clock for Nene to see.

"This is... Onii-sama's....."

"It's quite a weird looking thing."

"....Weird looking....thing..."

"After stripping off her armor while retreating, Nobuna-sama still holds onto this namban clock. She seemed to be unable to abandon Sagara-sama's weird looking clock. But then, miraculously, the 2 bullets hit this weird looking namban clock first. It's due to this that the bullets were greatly weakened and were unable to penetrate deep inside Nobuna-chan's body."

Nene was originally very angry when she was coming to see Nobuna, and had wanted to scold her.

In the end, you still abandoned Onii-sama, Hime-sama who once cherished Onii-sama..... is too heartless... But... Such anger had disappeared.

Nobuna did not abandon Yoshiharu heartlessly so she can escape.

But, it's because she understood Yoshiharu's intentions.

"....Hime-sama... Uhh...Uwahhhhhh."

Niwa Nagahide held on to Nene's back gently while she grabbed onto Nobuna's hand. While weeping, she said,

"Hime-sama is currently at her most dangerous period. Though the first danger has passed safely due to Manase-sama's surgery, but, due to the blood loss, she can't recover her strength right now..."

"....Uhh..Uhh...Niwa-sama, so as to say, there is no way to send reinforcements to save Onii-sama?"

"It can't be done, I'm afraid these two days are Hime-sama's most critical period. And it's still unknown if Nobusumi-sama at Odani castle managed to escape the pursuit of the Asai clan and he is currently missing. The Oda clan is currently facing the risk of total annihilation."

"But, But, if this goes on, Onii-sama will.....!"

"I know, but, we can't do such a thing right now. The Asai-Asakura allied forces are moving towards Kyoto through the western Omi streets of Lake Biwa in great speed. Nene-dono, if we give up on guarding Kyoto right now, Sagara-sama's sacrifice to let us retreat from Kanegasaki will become meaningless. 0 points."

Nagahide lowered her head.

Manase shook his head and said, "Though Nobuna has extraordinary will, but, it seems that her heart's wounds are even greater than her body's. After the surgery, her condition became even worse suddenly, if this goes on...."

"You mean... Hime-sama might not last through this.....?"

"The one who can really save her is her own will to "live on", Nagahide-sama. We doctors aren't magicians. There is a limit to what medical knowledge can do. What we can do is to give the strength to live to those who want to keep living. But somehow, Nobuna-chan is slowly losing the wish to keep living... If this goes on, she will just become weaker and weaker. To think that the spirited Nobuna-chan can become like this, how unbelievable."

Nagahide can no longer utter another word.

Just where have things gone wrong? If this continues on, Sagara-sama's sacrifice... No, we can't yet say that Sagara-sama has sacrificed himself, though he is most likely dead, but won't his death become meaningless?

Holding onto Nene's shaking back, Nagahide wiped off the sweat from Nobuna's forehead.

"Nene-dono, Manase-sama, Hime-sama seems to be mumbling something."

Nagahide's ears edge nearer to Nobuna's pale lips.

"....Run....Saru...Hurry up and run...."

Just what kind of nightmare is Nobuna having... To have such mumblings...

Repeatedly...

"Yoshiharu...I'm sorry..."



On Nobuna's anguished face lies a streak of tear.

"I see, Nobuna-sama is trapped in the nightmare of Yoshiharu-sama dying in the battlefield, and has slowly lost the will to live."

"Manase-sama, what can we do? I... Just what can I do?"

"From now on, this isn't what I can do with my medical skills. Nagahide-sama, have you decided on something?"

"For me, a plan to reverse such a overwhelming disadvantageous situation is just too.... It's at this critical period that we need the smart and cunning Hanbei-sama but, she is still unconscious..."

"Calm down, Nagahide-sama. If even you give up now, then all will be finished."

Niwa Nagahide is always composed and calm. If it's about advising her master, then it is without doubt that she is the first person anyone could think of, a pillar of support that the Oda clan cannot do without. But, she isn't remarkable in terms of strategies or planning.

And what the courageous Shibata Katsuie knows is to just move ahead and push on. If now, she has the right to command the troops, after witnessing the tragedy of Nobuna and Yoshiharu, she will most likely become furious and lead the Oda army for a straight on battle with the Asai-Asakura allied forces. If that's the case, the Oda army will quickly be eliminated under the combined forces of the Asai and Asakura clans.

No, to Nagahide, what she truly wants to do now is to lead the whole army to help Yoshiharu. Even if they lost Kyoto, or even the whole Oda army, she must still save Yoshiharu. Only he will give Nobuna the hope to keep on living.

But... if she really does this, the chances of success is seemingly... 0 points. Nagahide, a woman who won't lose her wits no matter what, can only see such a result.

Both Nagahide and Katsuie shined in the sengoku era because of Nobuna. But right now, Nobuna, and the whole Oda clan were hanging by a thread, and were forced into a corner...

"God-sama, Buddha-sama, Neko-sama, anyone, please, save Nobuna-sama and Onii-sama!!"

Nene splashes the water from the well on herself, starting the cleansing for the prayer.

She wants to take up a spear and rush to the battlefield.

But, that is impossible for the young Nene.

So at least, at least praying... What she can do right now is to devote her wishes to the prayers for the gods.

Nagahide said, "Nene-dono, you will catch a cold" and tried to stop her, but Nene seems to not feel the cold from the winter waters and was splashing herself with shocking determination.

Being moved by Nene's determination,

Wasn't just Nagahide herself.

"Niwa-sama and Shibata-sama, please lead the troops to protect Kyoto. I, Juubei Mitsuhide, will go by myself to Omi and save Sagara-senpai in a while."

".....Inuchiyo, is going too. The wilderness, I'm used to it."

"M...M...Me...Me too."

Other than her wild forehead, the otherwise perfect bishoujo, Akechi Mitsuhide,

Small figure and wearing a tiger skin, Maeda Inuchiyo,

and, Matsudaira Motoyasu, the bespectacled girl wearing Tanuki ears, decided while she is slightly shivering.

The three of them who had just managed to return to Kyoto from the "Retreat of Kanegasaki" had all asked Nagahide for permission.

"But, with just you guys... The possibility of you dying is extremely high. It should be a ninja's job to sneak in for any rescue mission. 20 points."

Nagahide put on a troubled expression.

Without a doubt, if she could do it, Nagahide would have send ninjas long ago, but, Goemon had been sent to Omi and had not returned, Hattori Hanzou who is serving Matsudaira Motoyasu is moving with Yoshiharu, so as to say, there aren't any ninjas to send.

"Anything is good, but if we continue to not do anything, we won't be able to help Nobuna-sama. And, this smart Mitsuhide had made a mistake when lending those arquebus to Sagara-senpai."

"What is it, Akechi-sama?"

"Um... That..." Mitsuhide who was breaking out in sweat seems to not be able to mutter anything and was hesitating.

"....Um... When lending those arquebus, I had forgotten to lend those soldiers that were skilled to use those arquebus to Sagara-senpai... If this goes on, I, Mitsuhide, can't sleep in peace. I will see the ghost of Sagara-senpai floating around me every time I lie down....."

"This is just.... 30 points." Nagahide said.

"But, Hime-sama had once revealed to me that if she had some mishap, Akechi-dono will be the one to succeed her ambition. Katsue and I respected such a decision from Hime-sama. If Akechi-dono met with some accident right now, who will succeed the ambition of unifying the world?"

"No, compared to my life, Nobuna-sama's life is a thousand times more important! I, Mitsuhide, though a genius, eloquent, is a descendant of the esteemed Toki Genji, and with perfect looks, but I do understand that I can't be compared in terms of capabilities! Without Nobuna-sama, there is no way to talk about unifying the world!"

".....Understood." Nagahide relented.

Mitsuhide, who will be able to succeed the Oda clan even if she did not do anything, (Though she is a bit too boastful) displayed loyalty by not caring about her own life while saving Nobuna and Yoshiharu. Nagahide cannot reject such a decision.

What she can do right now is to guard Kyo before Nobuna wakes up. At such a situation when she needs to do something yet is unable to move, "Guarding" is a much more important and hard responsibility compared to moving out. Such a responsibility had to be shouldered on by someone, and the one capable of doing it, can only be herself.

".....Inuchiyo, is going anyway. Stopping is useless, if you stop me, I'm cutting you down."

"Inuchiyo-dono, I have never thought of stopping you..... But Matsudaira Motoyasu-dono, you are the ally of Hime-sama, but right now, if you continue to be with the Oda clan, I'm afraid Mikawa will....."

"I'm indebted to Saruyoshi-sama. And, if I can save Kichi-nee-san, I am willing to bet on this last possibility and lend all of the Mikawa troops to Mitsuhide-sama."

Though her tanuki ears are shivering non-stop, Matsudaira Motoyasu had made her decision.

Nagahide can't help but think, though Matsudaira Motoyasu is normally clumsy, kinda dumb and a little evil. But, once she has decided on something, she will become unbelievably stubborn, just like the specialty of the Mikawa army. In some other way, Motoyasu is the type that is able to display her strengths the more she is under a critical situation. But in opposite, during peaceful times, she won't think of anything and is just an ordinary brat....

This is really a big gamble, I've decided. I will carry all of this responsibility.

"....I understand, go and save Sagara-sama. Remember to not go too far in, and please come back alive."

"Roger!"

After the trio had a promise "We will save your brother." with Nene who was still splashing herself with water, they disappeared towards the mountain path going into Omi.

After miraculously retreating to Kyoto with the Oda clan seemingly uninjured, Mitsuhide, Inuchiyo and Motoyasu dived onto the rescue mission without rest.

At this time, the back troops that Yoshiharu was leading had yet to start their final stand with Tsuchimikado at the Wakasa's dragon hole.

## Part 2

The season is totally winter now.

The mountains are full of fallen leaves.

During the journey, as they are riding towards Mount Hiei, Inuchiyo said with a look of anguish, "It's around here."

"....If it's a normal sniper aiming for Hime-sama, it's impossible to shoot 2 shots on a target that is moving at high speed. I'm afraid the sniper is Sugitani Zenjuubou."

"Kouga's assassin... Ninja..."

"Inuchiyo-sama, after that, what happened to Sugitani Zenjuubou?"

".....It's regrettable, but he ran away. I was careless and lost sight of him..."

"This is difficult, there aren't much places to run to near here."

"He must have ran into the mountains and hid." Motoyasu said.

"From the name, Sugitani Zenjuubou should be a monk, or had some kind of relationship with Mount Hiei's monks, or... We have to consider the possibility that the whole Mount Hiei have already become Kichi-nee-san's enemy~."

Mitsuhide who believed not, retorted.

"As the head of Mount Hiei, tendaizasu-sama is the elder brother of Himiko-sama. Nobuna-sama who had donated large amounts of money should be their friend, it shouldn't be possible for them to be enemies."

"But because tendaizasu-sama isn't at Mount Hiei himself, so the actual leader of Mount Hiei might be anti-Nobuna..."

"If that's the case, the mystery of how Sugitani Zenjuubou suddenly disappearing is cleared..." Inuchiyo said.

"Wh..Wh...Wh...Why!? Why is Mount Hiei against Nobuna-sama? Even this smart Juubei Mitsuhide can not understand this!"

"....This ancient spiritual mountain that is a holy ground for secret sects and practitioners had all along forbidden women from entering, for example, Mount Fuji, Mount Shiro, Mount Koya and Mount Hiei. Maybe, there are monks in Mount Hiei that are displeased with the female Kichi-nee-san ruling the world."

Mitsuhide snorted, "Ignorant. This rule that forbids women in Buddhist teachings, just what is unclean about girls?"

"Most likely, it's because it will affect their practicing in the mountains. If there are cute girls in front of them, their abstinence will become much harder, especially for those young monks~"

".....The practitioners have been passing rumors among themselves that once they can't practice abstinence, they will lose their powers."

"What an unreasonable way to say! Being troubled to see girls, that is the fault of those guys!"

".....But, looks like Yoshiharu should do some practicing on abstinence."

Motoyasu laughed, "It's true that Saruyoshi-sama seems to be better practicing that."

"Nono, if you take away his perverseness from him, he will definitely shrivel and rot somewhere. The reason why Sagara-senpai is able to survive till now is because of his extraordinary perverseness. It's not too much to say that he lives on due to the immense strength of his perverseness."

"You have a point. Because Kichi-nee-san and so many other girls are waiting for him, and he had the promise of "If I live, let me kiss you." with her, so....."

"Geez, just how perverted can he be, that Gorilla fellow!"

"Saruyoshi-sama is definitely... still living~"

"....Yes, still living."

"That idiot will definitely surpass all trials to go back to Nobuna-sama's side!"

The trio finished their conversation and continued on silently.

After this, we must ask Mount Hiei to hand over that villian, Sugitani Zenjuubou.

But, the opponent is a female prohibited spiritual mountain, and, the monks in Mount Hiei are mostly militarized monks.

Mount Hiei, having the double protection of being a spiritual mountain and Buddhist teachings had become sort of an independent empire near Kyoto. Generations of Ashikaga shoguns couldn't do anything about it and had been troubled by this.

Because they prohibit females from entering, the Oda clan, which comprises of mostly female generals will have lots of difficulty negotiating with Mount Hiei.



But now, the first and foremost matter on hand is to save Sagara Yoshiharu.

The trio followed Nagahide's instructions and rode along the retreat path that she had build for Yoshiharu.

Though they were originally prepared for Yoshiharu and his troops, but due to the hidden horses and supplies, the trio was able to move quickly.

On the way, they did encounter some small squads hunting for escaped warriors, but the trio who prioritize saving Yoshiharu chose to hide from them.

But, there isn't any sight of Yoshiharu anywhere.

The blurred Kuchiki Shinano reported to them that no one had passed by. While Shinano laughed weirdly, "The back troops might be near the edge of Wakasa, near Mizusaka ridge, ahahaha.", he lent a precise map to the trio.

What a weird man... Mitsuhide and the other two felt strange, but there wasn't any time to dig deeper.

Though his actions are weird, Shinano is undoubtedly loyal to the Oda clan.

They continued on, and at last, they reached the top of Mizusaka ridge.

In the valley of Wakasa, the seriously injured and broken apart back troops of Yoshiharus' were having a fierce battle with Asakura's Tsuchimikado.

"There! Everyone is battling! Ahh geez, why didn't they use the arquebus?"

"...The opponent is the shikigami army that is flying in the air, their looks are so ugly."

"Now! Sagara-senpai is attacked by some strange enemy! He is really as disgusting as before, Sagara-senpai! Ahahahaha!"

At the last moment, Mitsuhide and the other two had reached him.

Yoshiharu had lived on miraculously.

At the time when Yoshiharu's life was like a dying candle flame, Mitsuhide and the rest had reached him.

In the battle, the enemy's shikigami army have an overwhelming advantage. They could see the suddenly appearing Hattori Hanzou opening up a smokescreen.

Mitsuhide who was grasping her arquebus shouted,

"I heard shikigamis are terrifying! Right now, let's rush into the valley!"

"Bring Saruyoshi-sama to the retreat path that we had prepared and run~"

".....Inuchiyo, moving out!"

At this time,

The trio had believed.

Like this, Yoshiharu and Nobuna, both of them could be saved.

But,

At that instant that they felt lucky, the odds turned on them...

At the short amount of time that the trio rushed down to the valley, fate had revealed her cruel smile to the three of them.

"It seems like, it's over."

A young omyouji's silhouette appeared in the narrow valley.

That guy waved the fan on his hand lightly.

In an instant, the smokescreen that Hanzou had opened up disappeared like it never existed in the first place.

Mitsuhide and the others saw it.

Everyone in the back troops was being pushed down onto the floor by the shikigamis.

The blood soaked, Hattori Hanzou.

And, with a seemingly frozen expression and a dagger being held up to his neck, Sagara Yoshiharu.

Zenki who was asked by Hanbei to "Protect Yoshiharu-sama"... had also disappeared.

Maybe he had been defeated by the shikigami army and vanished...

The young omyouji's face slowly turned into an arrogant smile, as he proclaimed.

"Seems like I'm the victor. As long as I have the head of this Saru, I don't care about these dirty soldiers. Since it's too troublesome, scram."

Then, Hanzou said,

"Understood, let us use our last bomb to send Sagara-sama on his way!"

After doing a hand sign, and during the same time Hanzou disappeared into a bunch of falling leaves,

"Bastard, I've said it! I will use my life in exchange for all the lives here! But, it's too shameful for my head to be removed and be used to display to others! I will definitely not give you my head! The way I die, I will choose it myself!"

Yoshiharu shouted loudly.

After that, all the shikigamis rushed towards Yoshiharu.

And, suddenly,

There was a big explosion.

Sagara Yoshiharu had exploded into a million pieces.

Spreading out, Yoshiharu, or it should be Yoshiharu's pieces, were falling like rain droplets onto the ground.

And Mitsuhide, who had seen such a scene...

"....Uwahh....UWAHHHHHHHH.....!?"

In Mitsuhide's heart, something seems to have broken apart.

Kill.

Kill...

KILL....

I'LL KILL YOU.....!

Drawing out the arquebus on her back, she aimed and shot at the young omyouji.

The low level shikigamis who were frightened by the gunshot, "There's still arquebus?" and had fled in all directions.

The omyouji who still acted like a child while saying, "Ara ara, it's boring to have blown yourself into pieces, as expected, no human can understand what monkeys are thinking.", he threw a talisman in his hand to block the bullet from Juubei, then he revealed a smile as cold as a vampire's.

"Though I don't plan to fulfill the promise with that ninja and Saru, but, my mood is exceedingly good now. And I've accomplished my objective in killing the Oda clan's Sagara Yoshiharu. So, scram as you wish, I will only close my eyes this time round, but, if anyone dares to come here and irritates me, I'll kill."

Behind him, a shikigamis with the wings like a dragon appeared and the young omyouji flew up into the sky.

"Who is running! I'll kill you... I'LL DEFINITELY KILL YOU....!"

Mitsuhide rushed forwards alone, towards the omyouji who is flying in the air.

Her eyes, had become bright red due to blood rushing to her head.

Her brain was totally black.

"N....No! There are definitely traps in front... Wait~!"

Though Motoyasu wanted to stop her, but she didn't make it in time.

The ground in front of Mitsuhide trembled to reveal a large crack. The crack was deep, like an opening into hell.

But,

Mitsuhide who had lost all reasoning can only see the omyouji who was flying in the air.

To tear apart this enemy, this omyouji who forced Yoshiharu to his death, in Mitsuhide's mind, there was only such a thought.

No, in actual fact, she was no longer thinking about anything.

Mitsuhide's body had already been controlled by immense fury.

With her horse, Mitsuhide fell into the deep crack in the ground.

"Ah, ahhhh... Ho....How did things become.... Sar...Saruyoshi-sama and Mitsuhide-sama.... How did things become like this?"

They can no longer see Mitsuhide anymore.

The crack is like an enormous monster's mouth that swallows everything.

Falling into such a crack, there isn't any way anymore...

Just like this, Motoyasu and Inuchiyo stood there in a daze.

On their sides were the back troops that had injuries all over their body.

"Uwahhhh! I'm so sorry, commander... Sorry....!"

"....Commander... Why must you sacrifice yourself for soldiers like us!"

"With this... he can't meet Oda's Hime-sama anymore....."

No one, at present, was happy that he survived.

Inuchiyo silently bent her body, wanting to collect the pieces of Yoshiharu's corpses.

But, just when she touched it, the meat pieces disappeared like sand blown by the wind.

"Hanzou, what is this? I had ordered you to protect Saruyoshi-sama~!"

Motoyasu was crying while scolding Hattori Hanzou who had reappeared unknowingly and kneeling in front of her.

But, Hanzou said without a change in expression, "After hearing such a loud explosion, the nearby squads who are hunting for escaping warriors will soon gather here. If we don't retreat right now, we will be eliminated."

"ANSWER ME, HANZOU!"

""If we were forced to a corner by Tsuchimikado's shikigami army, use my life to save the others." That is what Sagara-dono decided with his own will at the final moments."

"But, if that's the case.....!"

"In this situation where Hime brought so little aides with her, and came to the frontline without any sort of backup, the mission that we of the Hattori faction have right now is to send Hime-sama back to Kyoto using any way that's possible."

"Hanzou? But at least, at least Mitsuhide-sama, if we don't go and save...."

"The strength of Tsuchimikado is terrifying, even if there is a miracle, that child won't be unscathed. And, to us Hattori faction, Hime-sama's life is more important than anything else."

Hattori Hanzou is indeed a cold cruel man.

Without any hesitation, he proclaimed, "We are not the retainers of the Oda clan, but we serve Hime-sama. The mission to protect Sagara Yoshiharu will stop right here. Now, we will begin to escort our master, Hime-sama back to Kyoto."

### Part 3

In an instant, the situation had changed.

At the shores of Lake Biwa, along the narrow streets of western Omi, the armies of Asai and Asakura clans are moving forwards, an estimated 35000 strong.

The allied forces are nearing Kyo.

And the Oda side had no time to wait for Nobuna to wake up, with Niwa Nagahide and Shibata Katsuie leading a 25000 strong army, they head out to face their enemy. During the retreat at Echizen, though the back troops that Sagara Yoshiharu led had absorbed most of the enemy's attack, and thus had avoided total annihilation, they still did lose an amount of soldiers.

The commander of the army is Oda clan's strongest member, the chief, Shibata Katsuie.

At her side, advising her was Niwa Nagahide.

While the two of them were moving forwards, they were discussing strategies.

"I...I...I...I... d...do...don...don't know what to do!? No matter what, forwards! Yeah!"



"Katsuie-dono, isn't the place to battle at Sakamoto?"

"Sa...Sakamoto?"

"An important location at the eastern side of Mount Hiei, if Sakamoto is conquered, Kyoto will just be a straight line for them. If we are forced to retreat back to Kyoto, it will mean our defeat."

Nagahide explained the geographical situation of Sakamoto to Katsuie, but Katsuie kept shaking her head.

"A...An...Anyway, in my dictionary, there is only forwards! Using speed to attack them all at once! Especially Asai Hisamasa who betrayed Hime-sama, I will kill him myself! .....but, is it really okay for me to be the commander, Nagahide?"

"Yeah, we can't afford a tardy battle, if we are dragged to a prolonged battle, Kouga's Rokoku and anti-Nobuna forces everywhere will all move, Katsuie-dono. 90 points."

"Ahhh, this is the first time I had such high points from Nagahide, don't worry! Look, Nagahide, Shibata Katsuie will turn into a demon to take revenge for Hime-sama!"

"Hmmm, I'm looking forward to it."

This battle, is a battle to give righteous punishment to that despicable traitor, Asai Hisamasa, who had broken the pact. Only this time, the weakest Owari troops's morale is abnormally high.

The soldiers had not known of the sniping of Nobuna... But losing the respected "Nobuna-sama's Saru" made their fury reached indescribable levels.

But, Katsuie and Nagahide who were reaching Sakamoto received a shocking news from the scouts.

"Asai Asakura allied forces ignored Sakamoto and have climbed Mount Hiei."

"Wh...What is this, Mount Hiei!? ....Nagahide, what is going on here!? I...I do not understand the reason behind this, uwahhh...."

"Looks like there is someone smart in the enemy ranks. To form their formations at Mount Hiei, they want to drag this battle out."

"So as to say....?"

"If this goes on, we will have to surround Mount Hiei, and the situation will stagnate. As time passes, the Oda army will face greater risks of being attacked by Rokoku at southern Omi or Kyoto being captured by the Miyoshi clan. But if we gave up on Mount Hiei and retreat, the allied forces will attack our army as we are retreating from the back."

"Wa...Wait! I understand that it is very disadvantageous for us if we gave up the protection of Kyoto and get trapped here. But, why has Mount Hiei become our enemy!? Did we do something to provoke Mount Hiei!?"

"Not sure, the timing that the Asai and Asakura clans allied with each other is just too good, and the betrayal of Asai Hisamasa was not noticed even by his own son, Nagamasa-sama. In the midst, I'm afraid that someone is pulling the strings....."

As the Oda clan had lost their target, they pitched camp at Sakamoto.

Before, it was the Oda clan retreating from Kanegasaki, but now, it is the allied forces escaping into Mount Hiei.

The Oda army that was supported by their mindset of vengeance, had reached their limits, since the soldiers were all tired both in their body's and minds.

But, at that moment, there was yet another unexpected event.

"Wahahaha! I'm a priest from Mount Hiei, Shoukakuin's Gousei-sama! Thinking of Tenka Fubu when you are all girls, let me teach you gals a lesson!"

From the forests of Mount Hiei, suddenly and without notice, there were a lot of monks attacking them.

The big build leader was waving the iron rod in his hands without stopping.

The Oda army who was pitching camp was caught unaware and plunged into confusion.

"Katsuie-dono, now is the time to display your courage!"

"I understand! Let's battle it out! To Shoukakuin!"

Shibata Katsuie rode into the enemy's formation single handedly, knocking away large amounts of monks and rushed towards Shoukakuin.

Even the monks of Mount Hiei seemed unable to stop the invincible Shibata Katsuie as she shouts,

"Where have we offended you guys in the past? I will now accept the heads of you monks, eat this! Ultimate skill, slash of broken vases!"

The aide who followed closely behind threw a huge vase at Katsuie. Katsuie swung her long spear and hit the vase.

With a shattering sound, the broken pieces of the vase shot out in all directions.

"Ahh!"

"Uwahh!"

"Hmm, you're capable, lass!"

The monks who were hit on their heads or body fell down one by one.

Katsuie opened up a bloody path towards Shoukakuin's commander.

As expected from Oda clan's strongest warrior, the invincible Shibata Katsuie. That skill was used for the first time in an actual battle, but due to the experience that she trained previously or the fury that Katsuie is feeling now, the effect of this skill was remarkable.

"Enough! Shoukakuin, have a fair fight with me!"

"Hmph, to fight with an unclean female warrior, I will get punished by Buddha-sama. But since you had come all this way, let me play along with you, Uwahahahaha!"

Shoukakuin Gousei wave the iron rod on his hand and rushed towards Katsuie.

The spear and rod collided multiple times, though in terms of strength, it's Shoukakuin Gousei having the advantage, but Katsuie who was on the horse and with her remarkable spear skills overwhelmed her opponent as she gradually close in.

"Ahhhhh~! I'm the Oda clan's Shibata demon! Shoukakuin, prepare yourself!"

"What is this strength, you, don't tell me you're a guy in fact? Such power, you must be a guy!"

"Eh!? ...to say something so rude!"

We can win~! As expected from Katsuie-sama who is stronger than even men! At first, the soldiers who were covered by the ambush had their courage taken away, but after witnessing Katsuie's battle, their morale had returned.

"Uhh, haha, my true mission is the protection of Mount Hiei. I won't play with you anymore, lass, let's end it here today."

Shoukakuin Gousei faced his back to Katsuie, gathered the remaining monks and retreated.

Though defeated, they are not confused. As expected from the monks at Mount Hiei.

But Katsuie had fallen into a frenzy.

"Wait! The duel had just began and you are running already!? YOU COWARD!"

"Wahahaha! If you can't take it down, try and chase us down! But if you enter the holy Mount Hiei and began battling with us monks, it won't be enough with just you female generals!"

"Damn it! All forces, chase that bastard monk and attack Mount Hiei!" Katsuie who was provoked swung her spear and wanted to pursue, but Nagahide stopped her.

"Wa...Wait, Katsuie-dono! Mount Hiei is a famous mountain that protects Kyoto's gate of demons! The main temple is worshipping the "Holy Flame" that has not been extinguished ever since the temples were built. People believe that if the flames of the "Holy Flame" are extinguished, the spiritual power to seal the gate of demons will disappear and Kyoto will be besieged with disasters! It is bad if we just attacked like this! And Mount Hiei is a holy mountain that prohibits females from entering, don't mention attacking, both me and Katsuie aren't even allowed to enter."

"Eh~!? Prohibit females from entering? What is that?"

"Reasons are from religious teachings and also, there are scholars who think there are ancient rules that have existed long before Buddhism came about."

"So as to say, I can't attack the enemies at Mount Hiei, yet I can't remove the siege of Mount Hiei!"

"Hmmm, we can't move whatsoever... 2 points."

"Ohhhhh. Bastard Shoukakuin, you ask for it yet you don't dare to battle it out fairly in a duel, running into a safe place that prohibits females from entering. Just... Just what kind of a bastard are you!?"

Katsuie and Nagahide stood and watched the over 850 feet Mount Hiei in a daze, worrying in their hearts about the gradually darkening fate of the Oda clan.

At that time, Oda Nobuna who was unconscious at Hounou temple, still had not woken up.

## Part 4

Mount Hiei.

Main temple's hall.

There were 3 guys sitting in front of the "Holy Flame".

"...I didn't think that we will begin our battle with a turtle style, Oda Nobuna has not died yet, according to our plan, shouldn't we have won already?"

Hisamasa who wasn't skilled in wars had already turned pale.

"Is it really okay to betray the Oda clan, it will be all over if we are defeated by the Oda army." Hisamasa was tortured by lots of uneasiness.

Totally different from the panicking Hisamasa was a tall guy sitting calmly while sipping his tea.

His black hair wasn't tied up, but was at his back.

This man's age is around 30 years old.

Though he's very tall, it wasn't a type full of muscles.

But a well seasoned, a body like that of a wild cat.

At the same time, though he is on the battlefield, that man was wearing elegant clothes worn by Kyoto nobles.

"Hisamasa, the more we drag this out, the more advantageous it will be for us. A battle full of blood is hideous, I despise letting female warriors bleed. A beautiful fight that could be used to boast to the world should be one that is won not through waving swords and shedding blood... All we need to do is to relax and wait for the Oda clan to be destroyed themselves."

This man has a mix of elegance with a beautiful voice.

And he is Echizen's Daimyo, named Asakura Yoshikage.

The esteemed Asakura clan's 11th head.

Different from Asai Nagamasa who cross-dressed as a male, Asakura Yoshikage wasn't a beautiful type, both his heart and body are 100% manly.

But, he had an extreme interest, an extremely frivolous character.

Because he was crazy about Kyoto's culture, he renamed Echizen's capital, "Ichijodani" to "Little Kyoto", the city's building style was totally imitating Kyoto and at the same time, Yoshikage always brings along a picture book, "The tales of Genji."

Asakura Yoshikage's interest in "Genji" isn't just limited to picture books, the residence he lives in was build exactly like the Hikaru Genji's annex house. At the same time, he even asked the genius artist from the north, Hasegawa Touhaku, to draw paintings on his walls, ceilings and pillars. Turning his whole house into a world of "Genji", and was immersed in it the whole day.

The esteemed sengoku daimyo's blood that came to the 11th generation had become such a frivolous fellow.

Such a Asakura Yoshikage has no interest in war.

This time, he sent out forces because Nobuna attacked Echizen first, to quell the flames of war, he reluctantly did so.

"It's true that there are still uncertainties, but, from the start that our plan was working out, we would already have a firm chance of winning this war. A commander that keeps commanding his troops, letting huge amounts of soldiers die due to wars is dumb. As long as we have geographical and timing advantages, then victory will soon be ours."

Though he hates wars, but once he goes into one, Yoshikage is a remarkable strategist.

"Once Oda Nobuna dies, give the position of the ruler of the world to my son, Nagamasa."

Hisamasa lowered his head deeply to the much younger Yoshikage.

"Can be done, I have no interest in troublesome things like ruling the world. I've heard that Nagamasa is an elite, no matter if it's Kyoto or the world, I will leave them all to you. But, all the beautiful pieces of art in Kyoto are to be sent to my Ichijodani, because I do not wish to see the pieces of arts in Kyoto being destroyed during the course of war."

This is Asakura Yoshikage's wish.

This man has zero interest in conquering the world.

Such a mundane thing can be left to the Asai clan who was closely related to the Asakura clan, this is Yoshikage's true wish.

And because of this, Yoshikage who had no ambition, nor desired one was able to see an even clearer battlefield.

The last of the 3 men.

"It's no good if the leader of the troops isn't a man! If a lass like Oda Nobuna is really able to conquer the world, I will be troubled, I will fully dedicate this Mount Hiei's forces to the two of you.

He is the big build monk that had just retreated from battling with the Oda army.

Shoukakuin Gousei was drinking his wine lavishly.

He is the leader of Mount Hiei's monk army.

Before Buddhism came, Mount Hiei was worshipped as a spiritual mountain. As it is the centre of producing large amounts of Buddhist monks and Buddhist cultures, it had thousands of battle ready monk groups at the same time, just like an independent state.

But there won't be another guy like Shoukakuin who is direct and frank without any pretense in the monk troops.



No killing? No alcohol? What is that? Swinging his metal rod in the battlefield and drinking wine is what he loves the most, eating meat and borrowing money, but once borrowed, he will never return the money. Once Ashikaga shogunate wants him to return the money, Shoukakuin said, "Want them? Talk to the metal rod in my hand.", he is just such an outlaw.

And,

"To give the world to such a young lass, that is ridiculous! I'm disappointed at such a world now! What princess daimyo, they are just weak fellows who use their charm to lure men!"

Feeling furious about the world that had given birth to so many female warriors while saying, "Women will only shaken my resolve!", Shoukakuin hates female warriors. "Asai-sama, Asakura-sama, don't let these unclean women do whatever they like anymore, I had just crossed swords with those Oda brats, they must be slacking in defenses now! We should launch a night assault now! Using the darkness of the night, we should attack Sakamoto with our full force! What? If we fail? All we need to do is to retreat back to Mount Hiei."

"What a monk devoted to killing."

Asakura Yoshikage laughed.

But the cautious Hisamasa had other worries.

"...But Yoshikage-sama, once we reach December, won't the path back to Echizen be sealed with huge amounts of snow?"

"The Oda army is much more anxious than me. In this battle, the Oda army will be the first to fall."

"Uhh...But, to face off with the enemy...yet doing nothing, how about we send out some assassins to kill the commander of the Oda army, especially that Shibata Katsuie that was able to face off with Gousei-sama, if we don't kill her....."

"Shibata Katsuie or Niwa Nagahide are all female warriors, they are nothing to fear, not to worry."

"Uwahahahaha, I will personally send Shibata Katsuie who had forgotten the roots of being a female to the heavens, but if it's about assassinations,

I have an arquebus specialist, Sugitani Zenjuubou, he is the one who sniped Oda Nobuna who was escaping from Echizen."

Shoukakuin asked a young monk to bring Sugitani Zenjuubou who was hiding in Mount Hiei after sniping Nobuna over to the main hall.

Zenjuubou is the one who used Sagara Yoshiharu as bait to attempt to assassinate Nobuna, and after that, had successfully shot 2 bullets at Nobuna, a merciless assassin.

But....

"....I can't take it anymore, leave me alone."

That Zenjuubou is now totally drunk, and is having a drunken fit.

"Oi, Zenjuubou, what happened to sniping Oda Nobuna and becoming the world's best sniper?"

"....I, had failed to snipe that woman for 2 times, world's best sniper...? My skills are useless, no, what's useless is me myself....."

Gousei laughed, "She was hit two times in her abdomen, even that Oda Nobuna couldn't escape death in the end. That must be Buddha's punishment towards her for trying to conquer the world."

"....I want to kill my prey with a single shot, giving pain and suffering to a prey after shooting, it isn't my style. Of course I like seeing others suffering, but if I don't kill them at my first shot, I can't be called the world's best."

"Oh? Then why did such a sniper who had such a killing style fail?"

Asakura Yoshikage who was originally unconcerned about this topic began to have an interest in what Zenjuubou is saying.

Maybe he wants to know more about the philosophy behind killers.

"....If I aimed at her head, she will definitely die, but I... can't take the shot."

"Oh? Can't take the shot? Why is that?"

Zenjuubou hugged his head with anguish and scream, "....I don't know! ...I DON'T KNOW! ...That lass's smiling face is just too bright, I feel that an insect like me should never dirty her face.... Why, why did I have such a delusion... What happened to me, even I don't understand."

Asai Hisamasa can't help but fume, "If you had aimed at Oda Nobuna's head, we would already.....!" But, Asakura Yoshikage stopped him immediately, while saying, "Don't say meaningless things anymore."

"So I shot her abdomen, 2 shots, it should have penetrated her intestines. But even so, that lass didn't die... Even I had failed two times, that Oda Nobuna might really be blessed by the heavens....."

Listening to this, Gousei shook his head and said, "This man is useless now, scram, Gousei I don't want such a useless subordinate that can't even hold an arquebus! You had been charmed by Oda Nobuna's looks!"

"...He isn't like what you said, stop blaming Sugitani Zenjuubou." Asakura Yoshikage laughed, while saying "This man does have a heart which loves elegance.", he opened the picture book of "The Tales of Genji."

"I understand. If there is a piece of art of utmost beauty, it's normal to not be able to destroy it. Is Oda Nobuna really such a beauty that one can't look at her directly, even more ravishing than the princess in "The Tales of Genji"? I don't dare to believe in the existence of such a woman existing in the real world... If she is really as pretty as Wakamurasaki from "Tales of Genji", then the sakuras of the northern mountains and I will be mesmerized by her... The young Wakamurasaki will cry at a pitiful young bird, if such a beauty from my dreams really exists in reality... Hohohoho.. Everyone, do you know about the fact that Wakamurasaki and Genji really met at the northern mountains? After collecting numerous info, I had finally gotten concrete proof, I think the mountain at the back of Kyoto, is actually the northern mountain from Genji... What do you guys think?"

"What a intriguing man, compared to a living woman, he is much more into a princess in the stories..." Asai Hisamasa thought as he looked upon Yoshikage's fair looks.

"Genji has given the me who had nothing but despair of the real world immense hope. Like Genji who had brought a cute girl who looks like his mother back to his annex house, and turn her into his belonging, and then change her as per his preferences... I had finally gotten a perfect girl like Wakamurasaki... Ohohohoh."

"Oh, Yoshikage-sama, it's time we stop this frivolous topic...."

"Yes yes, I had an interest same as Rokujou Miyasudokoro that couldn't abandon the frivolous Genji that she hates, and like a ghost, she catches girls one by one and kills them, all the time unable to transmit her feelings

to Genji. I think Aoi who had become cold gradually is really pretty too, the suffering of Aoi in her heart had pained me everytime I read. The young wife that Genji married in his later years, San no Miya will definitely like the Nekogami-sama that is all the rage nowadays. I dare say she will be extremely happy if she could come to this era when the people really worship Nekogami-sama with their hearts."

Seems like once Asakura Yoshikage starts on the topic of "The Tales of Genji", he won't listen to anyone else.

Asai Hisamasa and Shoukakuin Gousei had to stay silent and listen...

And then suddenly, someone that could interrupt Yoshikage's mumblings appeared.

"Asakura-sama, Asai-sama, Saru is dead, he had been blown to pieces. Even his head is nowhere to be found and it is regrettable, but, in place of Sugitani Zenjuubou, I had done it."

The white shota and Omyouji

Is Tsuchimikado Hisanaga.

With his numerous ugly and low level shikigamis, Tsuchimikado appeared in the main hall.

"As expected from Mount Hiei, I could feel extraordinary "Ki", the shikigamis are 10 times stronger here compared to Wakasa."

"Such a child is the head of Tsuchimikado clan? And you don't even have Saru's head, what use it that for?" Asai Hisanaga who said that was suddenly embraced by a shikigami with wings and he instantly screamed, "Have mercy!!!"

"Saru's head had been blown away by Hattori Hanzou's bomb, so I can't get it, uhhh..."

"I got it, hurry and get this monster away from me! Have mercy on me!"

"How about our promise, if the Oda clan was destroyed, we, the Tsuchimikado family will once again rise in Kyoto, and gather all the omyoujis around the country to revere me as the head. Don't tell me you had forgotten about that?"

"As you wish, the era of omyoujis and shikigamis flying around in Kyoto, if we can return to such an era, I will truly feel happy. Isn't it a good thing to envelop Kyoto in darkness again?"

Tsuchimikado laughed, "Asakura-sama is really understanding."

"Yes yes, I have killed that Akechi Mitsuhide too, it's okay right, that small lass that was staying at Asakura-sama's place for a while. That lass with a wide forehead."

"....I see, that smart and elegant lass, if her forehead weren't that wide, she would be my Wakamurasaki..."

Though it's unknown if Oda Nobuna is alive or dead, but it's a fact that she can't move right now.

The Oda clan's most tenacious advisors, Sagara Yoshiharu and Akechi Mitsuhide, were defeated by Tsuchimikado.

Saitou Dousan, who is protecting Mino and Owari with a small amount of troops is under the threat of Kouga's Rokoku and the eastern Takeda Shingen, and is unable to help.

And Takigawa Kazumasu, who is at Ise was held down by Rokoku's army too and couldn't move at all.

Though, at one look, the Oda army have surround Mount Hiei, but in actual fact, it was being surrounded by numerous armies itself.

Shikoku's Miyoshi had appeared again. If one was to estimate the timing when they attack Kyoto which, is now an empty city...

"Two weeks, if we endure these two weeks of boring life, we can reverse the situation and victory will be ours."

"Uwahaha, we can win, Asakura-sama? Shibata or Niwa are all female warriors, they can't take a step onto Mount Hiei, so they can't even attack us. To have used Mount Hiei who prohibits women from entering, as expected from the cunning strategist."

"I just hate to see girls getting wrapped up in war. To frivolous people, girls should be kept in the house, helping her change her clothes every night, being mesmerized by her beauty as we enjoy her thoroughly... Hohoho."

"It's kinda disgusting." Tsuchimikado who was still a child spurt out his true feelings accidentally, but Asakura Yoshikage said, "Another two weeks to return home, how troublesome. Mount Hiei is full of boring men, I should have brought Hasegawa Touhaku with me" and was in his own world again.

## Part 5

Kyoto,

Hounou Temple.

Waiting room.

Nene was continuously asking the situation from Manase Belchior who was taking care of Nobuna. "Please tell me."

"They seem to have fallen into a situation where they can't move forwards or backwards at Mount Hiei, and there is nothing they can do seemingly."

"Yoshiharu-sama or Mitsuhide-sama, one of them could have come up with a brilliant plan that shocks all of us."

"Where is the crafty Hanbei-sama?"

"She is sleeping now due to medicine, I'm only telling you here, but Hanbei-chan's condition is unexpectedly serious, don't tell anyone about this."

"....Is that so....?"

"When will she wake up, we will have to see Hanbei-chan's strength and will."

"Uhhh... Everyone is important, yet Nene who is still a child can't do anything, how infuriating!"

"You did do something, to cleanse yourself with cold water at such a cold weather to pray for everyone, these feelings of Nene-chan will definitely transmit to Yoshiharu-sama and Nobuna-sama."

"But Hime-sama... Hime-sama's condition now is.....!"

Manase Belchior lowered his head.

True, Nobuna is looking much weaker now.

The surgery is perfect.

Though she had a fever, but the fever and the toxins in her body will disappear, and when the fever subsides, Nobuna will wake up.

But....

"Due to her high fever, I'm afraid Nobuna-sama is having nightmares. The human heart is mysterious, because of the nightmares, at the same time her spirit weakens, her body condition will weaken too, and that brings along an even higher fever. So, she can't wake up no matter what. If this keeps repeating, and the situation goes on like this, I'm afraid Nobuna-sama will....."

"Please try your best no matter what! Isn't Manase-sama a renowned doctor that combined both namban and traditional medical skills!?"

"....The dream world isn't a place that medical skills can reach."

If her high fever didn't subside, not just remaining in a coma, Nobuna-sama can last another one to two days at most. His mind flashing through numerous patients dying, but, only this point, Manase Belchior who is like a scent could not bare to say it out to the young Nene whose eyes are already full of tears.

But, the intuitive Nene had already discovered.

"....Hime-sama had already... already... can't be saved? Uhh, Uhh, if Onii-sama... Onii-sama could come back....!"

It was like they were in hell.

Inside Hounou temple, there was a deathly silence.

Suddenly, there was an unexpected guest.

"Hmmm, geezer, isn't it time that you guys need me?"

A body which emitted a "not of this country's" atmosphere and a strong perfume.

A china styled attire that was worn on tanned skin with a long thin tobacco pipe.

It was Matsunaga Danjo Hisahide who was commonly known as the "Venomous Scorpion."



Hisahide who wasn't seen for quite some time walked elegantly towards Manase Belchior.

"Ohh, Matsunaga-sama? Kyoto was having rumors about you running back to Yamato after Hime-sama was sniped and the Oda clan's was going down."

"Oh, it must be those kids in Kyoto who dislike me, I was actually conjuring a secret drug for Nobuna-sama.

After Manase heard it and while trembling all over, he pointed at Hisahide and said.

"Da..Da...Dan...Danjo-chan? Y...You... What are you doing here?"

In the past, the lecherous doctor Manase Belchior had once created illicit pictures with Matsunaga Hisahide.

At that time, Manase who wanted to seduce Matsunaga Hisahide was rejected, "I hate geezers." and was given sulfur mustard poison and abandoned at Hisahide's castle, 多闻山 castle.

To Manase, that was still a past that incites trembling whenever he thinks about it.

"I'm saying, it's about time that you geezer is out of ways to stop the illness from proceeding, Nobuna-sama is being trapped in her nightmares and can't wake up, right?"

"Though you are correct, but to use drugs on Hime-sama, and it was prescribed by Danjo-chan you, it's very suspicious, extremely suspicious."

"Not at all, there is a drug from Persia that was able to manipulate dreams, it's just that it's very difficult to gather the materials here, so I was delayed."

"Ho... a drug that manipulates dreams, what is it exactly?"

Nene asked, "If we use this, will Nobuna-sama be released from her nightmares?"

"Yes, not just ending her nightmares, it will give her sweet dreams, dreams of happiness that Nobuna-sama herself truly wants. Once Nobuna-sama's spirit becomes better, her temperature will drop and she will eventually wake up."

After listening, Nene held Hisahide's hands tightly, and asked numerous times, "Please!"

"Nene-chan, those Persian drugs that this woman uses are actually poisons, they are things that are extremely toxic and at the same time they have their uses, they can only do harm to Hime-sama who is so weak now. It's too dangerous."

Manase said as he frowned.

"If that's the case, what ways does geezer have to cure Nobuna-sama?"

Being stared at by Hisahide's sharp eyes, Manase can't help but emit an "Uhhhh" voice.

"You guys are bothering me here, how about I poison you along with that child..." Hisahide's eyes were transmitting to him such a threat.

"Bitter medicines tend to work best, if it can save Nobuna-sama's life, I will close an eye to any side effects it will bring. But Danjo-chan, that drug, has it been tested on humans yet?"

"Hmm, I had tested it on myself, during the period when the drug was taking effect, I had a dream where I was with Nobuna-sama in 多闻山 castle having a steamboat while talking, there wasn't anything wrong with it."

"If so, it seems kinda safe." Nene said.

"Danjo-chan, due to you taking so many drugs and toxins, your body already had resistance to it, and your body isn't the same as an ordinary girl, you can't be considered a good test subject, definitely not."

Hisahide narrowed her eyes and laughed, "At least I can say that it won't harm Nobuna-sama's life. This I can say with my head as guarantee."

Though Manase had an ominous feeling, but he decided anyways.

Just like this, Hisahide herself entered Nobuna's room.

"Is that really okay, Nene is kinda worried."

"Uhh, this is a gamble... Whether Danjo-chan's medicine is good or bad, we will have to see Hime-sama's fate."

"Hime-sama, to have become so weak... How pitiful.."

Hisahide looked at Nobuna who was tortured by the high fever and can't help but shed a tear as she held Nobuna's hand tightly.

That \*\*\*\*er who shot Nobuna with an arquebus is still hiding at Mount Hiei now.

Mount Hiei is a spiritual mountain that prohibits females from entering.

So as to say, the Oda army who is comprised primary of female warriors can't search for that \*\*\*\*er.

In actual fact, Hisahide had sent out numerous request to "Give us that \*\*\*\*er.", but Mount Hiei had rejected all of it by saying, "Unclean female daimyos have nothing to do with us."

And, the allied forces of Asai and Asakura had pitched camp in that Mount Hiei.

Both Shibata Katsuie and Niwa Nagahide can't enter due to being female.

How despicable is this...

What do they think women are...

Hisahide lost her home and family due to the wars in Kyoto and was picked up by Koufuku temple and brought up. It's due to these fallen monks that she had despaired and abandoned Buddhism.

Of course, among the monks, there aren't just fallen monks, there are still monks following strictly to the rules and praying for the people. But the arrogance of the monks who, without any care for their Buddhist teachings, started killing without thought, and their attitudes made them think that women are "unclean" even though they worship Buddha. Thus many monks fell and were ruled by their desires due to these reasons.

The young Hisahide, no matter if it's Kyoto or Nara, she was insulted by the monks to be a "Bastard from overseas."

Because of that, to protect herself, she learned spear skills and poisons.

Thinking about the past, her heart lit alight with black flames as Hisahide looked incredibly fierce.

"Nobuna-sama, that bastard that had hurt you, Matsunaga Hisahide will personally catch him and subject him to torture. I will bury him in the sand while only revealing his head, letting passerby use saws to slowly saw off

his neck. Though there are few people who treats criminals full of blood as a game and have fun with it, the criminal subjected to it will definitely be better off dead. Correct, it's not enough just killing him, to have harmed Nobuna-sama's beautiful body with a bullet, I must let him taste something much more terrible than death!"

While speaking to Nobuna, Hisahide put a black fluid into the famous pottery, Hiragumo and started boiling it.

"Come, drink it down. With this, the nightmares will end and that which replaces it are dreams full of happiness and joy, dreams that Nobuna-sama truly wants."

Even when Nobuna-sama suffered such a serious injury and had become so weak, she is still beautiful beyond comparison.

Hime-sama... I will protect you using any means necessary.

Hisahide looks at Nobuna's sleeping face, as she puts the bowl on Nobuna's dry lips, and slowly, very slowly fed her the medicine that was boiled.

"...Uhh...Uhh...Umm."

...

...

...



「サル、逃げて……!!」

夢の中で信奈は、地獄と化した金ヶ崎をさまよっていた。





"Saru, run...."

Nobuna is dreaming about Kanegasaki that had become hell on earth.

This... Just how many times had she seen it.

The forever repeating... nightmare.

For the dream of conquering the world, Nobuna who had abandoned Sagara Yoshiharu in Kanegasaki and fled had been searching and wandering about for Yoshiharu in Kanegasaki ever since getting shot.

"Hey, Saru, Yoshiharu! I'm such an idiot! If you are dead, who will accompany me to sail across the wide seas? With just me, what meaning is there for me to fulfill my dreams!? So... Please, I beg you, come back...."

As she wept, she rode through the mountain path.

Through this hill, I, will have to once again witness the scene where Saru was caught by those people who had been hunting for escaping warriors and killed.

And as I look at Saru dying, my heart too, is dying slowly with him.

No more, she doesn't want to experience such a nightmare anymore.

If, if I had to experience this never ending nightmare as I live on, then I should just.....

But,

The dream this time, isn't a nightmare.

Over the hill, she could see Yoshiharu leading the 500 strong troops back with gusto.

".....Yoshiharu.....!?"

"Ohh, Nobuna? Wh...Wh...Wh...Why did you come back? Anyway, who is Yoshiharu?"

"Isn't that you!? You, have you forgotten your own name? Your intelligence is really that of a monkey."

"Sh...Shut up! Being called "Yoshiharu" suddenly by you, it just that I can't react in time."

".....Yoshiharu!!"

Nobuna ran towards Yoshiharu, and without saying anything, hugged him.  
Her tears could not be stopped.

Though she had once thought it was a dream... But, this isn't a dream.

This is the real Yoshiharu. The warm, with a slight sweaty odor Yoshiharu.  
Her chest could feel his heart thumping, the real Yoshiharu.

I don't care anymore, whether this is a dream or reality.

My dream is, to conquer the world, see for myself the different wonders of the world using the wide seas and...

And, this strange man who had self-proclaimed he came from future Japan, to be by my side, and protect me.

Saying, "Nobuna, you are necessary to this country, I know it. Even if others in this era don't understand you, I understand you!" and support me from my back.

Is such a feeling love...? Or is this the same as the namban missionary who I had once admired as my elder brother....? This... I don't know yet.

Though I don't understand, but this feeling is definitely not the same...

Father... Missionary... Hirate-jii-san... Viper... and all the guys I had loved from the past, there was a fundamental difference.

Because, once we meet, my chest will start to pain.

A feeling that I did not feel from birth, I... must have...

"Oi Nobuna, just how long do you intend to hug me, and your expression is kinda weird, what happened?"

"Wh...What is it... I... I was worried about you, just what kind of attitude is this?"

"Commander! Seems like the atmosphere is getting hotter, hahaha."

"Get married once you return to Kyoto!"

"Shut up you guys! We had to save Asai Nagamasa who was imprisoned and help him get back his position as head, and then defeat the Asakura



forces... We will need to head out once we get back, isn't it!? There will be war very soon!"

Yoshiharu let Nobuna sit on his thighs as he hugs Nobuna's waist with a single hand, his other hand holding the reins as he rides forward.

Nobuna's heart can't help but have a doubt... Yoshiharu this fellow... When did he become so skilled in riding...?

"Hey Yoshiharu, is that true about helping Nagamasa get back the position of head in Asai clan?"

"Ahhh, it's true. Our back troops are all safe, so there isn't anything to worry about. Juubei-chan and the rest have already made it back to Kyoto safely!"

"Dearuka... Good... Everyone is still safe."

"Ahhh." Yoshiharu said as he increased his strength in hugging Nobuna.

"So that's the thing, Nobuna. After returning to Kyoto, we will continue our battle to conquer the world! The Asakura clan had already surrendered under the lightning speed attacks by Asai, there are no more enemies in the central area! Imai-jii-san from Sakai had also sent us lots of military funds, the military strength of Oda clan is now 20000! We are Japan's strongest!"

"Ahhh...Uhh, Bu...But we had a promise, if you came back alive, I will reward you. That reward, I should give it to you soon..."

"Ahh, that promise of a kiss? Since there isn't enough time, how about now we....."

"Wait, nnnnnnnoooo, aren't the soldiers looking at us!? I...I...I...I haven't kissed a man before, s...so it's not good if it's not some deserted place! Ahh, but, after returning from Kyoto, Manchiyo and Riku will come and disturb...."

Yoshiharu revealed his white teeth, laughed and said, "There won't be anyone to disturb us."

"Huh... What is going on? Suddenly, Yoshiharu seems to be 5 times manlier than usual.... This fellow... Had he been that suave before?" Nobuna tilt her head in puzzlement.

But, but this is okay too, so she did not mind it much.

"You didn't know anything, Nobuna. Nagahide-dono and Katsuie-dono will no longer disturb us. Well, Katsuie is still going crazy from jealousy but Nagahide plans to give us a wedding and is currently preparing at Kyoto."

"Ehhhhh? Wwait... What is this... Wa...Wait, I...I...I... When did I say I want to marry you? Th...The...The...There is such a big difference in our family status."

Yoshiharu revealed his extremely white teeth again as he played with his hair on the forehead, "That's troubling..."

"Well, I, who had survived through the "Retreat at Kanegasaki" have become known throughout in Kyoto, even the kids and nobles have recognized me as a big hero. The people all feel that there isn't anyone else who could match Oda Nobuna. Well, it's such a thing now. Ahh, there's no helping them, actually to me, I think girls with bigger breasts are better."

"Shut up! Mine aren't small, okay? The one who is small is Hanbei, compared to Hanbei, mine are already considered big! And, why are you so engrossed with girls' breasts? Breasts are originally used to nurture babies, to be so engrossed after growing up, are you a pervert!?"

"Breasts are men's romance! Hahahaha" Yoshiharu revealed his teeth and laughed.

"Geez, stupid...." Nobuna mumbled.

"But, since Himiko-sama had asked me, "I leave Nobuna-sama to you", so I can't really reject anymore...."

"Hi...Him...Himiko-sama said so herself! Th...Then there is no other way, if I reject, won't I be disloyal?" With a do or die attitude, Nobuna sent her lips over to Yoshiharu.

"See, we can see Kyoto now, Nobuna."

"Ahh...."

"Everyone have come to congratulate us for our return and give us their blessings for the wedding."

Dusk, Kyoto.

The wedding had begun.

Congrats, congrats,

Everyone's faces are full of smiles.

The wedding between them started just like this.

Inuchiyo said, "....Hime-sama is here." as she raised her bamboo spear.

"M...M...M...My Hime-sama, uwahhhhh~!"

"With this, Hime-sama will definitely be happy. Full points!"

Katsuie and Nagahide had gathered the presents and blessings from Kyoto and Sakai.

"As expected from Gorilla, no, Sagara-senpai! To be able to have Nobuna-sama's fancy, I, Juubei Mitsuhide admit defeat! Nobuna-sama, you must be happy from now on!" Mitsuhide who is cooking takoyaki put down the work on her hands and send them her blessings.

"The wedding ceremony will be held at the namban church, and I will be the Father" Frois laughed and said.

Once she sees Yoshiharu with his eyes locked onto Frois's gigantic breasts, Nobuna felt disgusted and aimed a kick at him wordlessly.

"As expected from Japan's no 1 bishoujo, strong and distinguished. It's normal for Yoshiharu-sama to fall in love with such a Nobuna-sama. Nobuna-sama isn't an opponent that I, Takenaka Hanbei can win from, so, I can only be the mistress of Yoshiharu-sama. \*Sob\*Sob\*"

"That may not be enough, Yoshiharu-shi's perverseness is totally shocking, maybe he will claim me as his wife too."

"Ahhh, brat, if you dare to touch our eternal idol, Goemon, we will definitely kill you!"

"Sh...Shut up~nya."

"Ahhh, here it is! Boss's stuttering!!!"

"From now on, I have to start monitoring Onii-sama so as not to let him be perverted to any girls other than Hime-sama, I, Nene who have the job of monitoring him am the biggest contributor!"

Next, Nagamasa and her brother, Nobusumi, Motoyasu and Imagawa Yoshimoto had all sent her their blessings.

"The cuisines had quite allot of work put in, as the head of the chefs, I, Imai Sougyu can guarantee that, everyone please dig in, never forget about this wedding."

And, the officiator for today, is the bride's godfather, Saitou Dousan who had rushed here from Mino.

"Good, good, Nobuna-dono. I, Saitou Dousan thought I could not see my god daughter donning on her wedding dress. Right now, I'm the happiest father in Japan."

With a face mixed with the happiness and sadness of marrying off his daughter, his voice seems a little weepy, as he had totally become, "Buddha Dousan".

And there is still one more, Tsuchida Gozen, Nobuna's biological mother who had very limited meetings with her daughter.

"Kichi, I'm sorry for being so hard on you all this while. Your mother doesn't want a princess like you to swing around swords but to be a normal princess and attain your happiness for yourself. Seeing you being so fixated on conquering the world, I had to be so cold to you. But now, with Sagara-dono protecting you, your mother will not worry anymore. Let us mother and child go back to living like before."

Tsuchida Gozen had streaks of tears full of happiness on her face.

"What a crowd." While humming a song, Yoshiharu lifts Nobuna up.

"Let's go to the namban church now, Nobuna. But, from now on, I should call you "Kichi." I think."

Just being simply called "Kichi" by Yoshiharu made Nobuna feel a terribly sweet pain from the deepest part in her chest.

Why isn't Matsunaga Danjo here, it was such an occasion.

If this goes on, I will really marry Yoshiharu!

"Wa...Wa...Wait, even I don't know if I want to marry you and be your wife, and you didn't say anything about liking me or what. There are lot's of procedures of things that we didn't do yet. I, know nothing about men... Of...Of course it's not that I'm not willing to marry you... Ju... Just that I want some time to prepare my own heart... So.....!"

"Che" "Che" "Che" Somehow, the whole crowd gave Nobuna their annoyed voices.

"It's impossible for me to ha...ha...hate you, but... Umm...Uhh... to marry all of a sudden, it's too fast....!"

"I see, there's no helping it then. You've given up, huh? As expected from a top rank girl. Then, as replacement, super bishoujo Juubei, are you willing to marry me?"

"Ehhh? Is that really ok? Of course I'm ok with it, Sagara-senpai. I did it!!!"

As the namban style music that signifies the start of the wedding, the overly excited Mitsuhide held onto Yoshiharu's hand and escaped outside.

"Juubei! Why do you always not see the atmosphere and what's with your happy expression! Isn't Yoshiharu your rival!? Wa...Wait!!!! Yoshiharu is... YOSHIHARU BELONGS TO ME!!!!!!!!!"

\*Bang\*

"Everyone run. Nobuna have gone crazy and started shooting everywhere!"

Ahh! Ahh! Ahh!

Wah! Wah! Wah!

Why... Why had things become like this...?

Somehow... things don't feel right...

## Part 7

"...A dream...? Danjo?"

"Yes." Matsunaga Hisahide who was kneeling at her side answered.

Nobuna wakes up and saw the dark ceiling of Hounou temple.

"The medicine that ends Nobuna-sama's nightmare and gives you sweet dreams is very effective. The temperature is going down and now, Nobuna-sama had finally woken up. What a miracle."

"....Dearuka."

"What a happy smile, it's a cute smiling face that I've never seen before, just what were you dreaming, Nobuna-sama?"

This question of Hisahide, Nobuna could not answer.

Trying her best to suppress the urge to cry from the deepest parts of her body, but with that, the wound on her abdomen started to hurt again.

But, what really hurts that she almost couldn't take it wasn't the wound on her abdomen, but her chest.

"....Dream, it's just a dream, it isn't real....."

As if to squeeze these words out, Nobuna is already exhausted.

Hisahide feels that Nobuna's heart who had woken up from her dream is starting to break again.

Nobuna's face is deathly pale.

The happiness that she had never felt before... that joyous mood... From the bottom of her heart, she feels happy to be alive, and had for the first time thanked God and Buddha that she had never met before.

But all of that... is just a dream...

So....

So this is what I really want in my heart...

Such a small, and ordinary... but never able to be fulfilled dream....

The reason why... is because Sagara Yoshiharu is already.....

"Hmmm, Nobuna-sama, your wound is starting to hurt again. Please drink this medicine.

Hisahide fed the medicine that she had just boiled to Nobuna.

With a strong fragrance, a medicine that is sweet like honey.

"It's a drug that could let the mood become good mysteriously."

"....Ah...."

Just from drinking a sip, Nobuna's conscious starts to blur.

"Like dreaming, yet not sleeping, it is a drug that can let you experience sweet dreams when awake. When I was betrayed and was thinking of some detestable matters from the past and was feeling terrible, I had always drank this too."

"....Danjo... My head is dizzy, the things in the room... I can't see them clearly... Upside down...."

"Hmmm, because the medicine is too strong for first timers, not a problem. Even if the world has become your enemy, I will stand by Nobuna-sama's side, and protect you from anyone who hurts you, don't worry."

"Ahh, Ahh... Danjo... Am I dreaming... or am I awake... I... can't seem... to distinguish..."

Lifting the frightened and shivering Nobuna, Hisahide used her well developed bosom as a pillow and lulled Nobuna like taking care of a baby.

Just like a child lying down on her mother's breasts, Nobuna quiets down, "Don't be afraid, my cute child... Nobuna-sama, have you heard of the story of "Duke of Zhou?"

"What.... is that?"

"It's a story from Tang. Long long ago, there was a man named Zhou Gong who dreamt that he turned into a butterfly flying in the air. He suddenly woke up and thought to himself, had he had a dream of turning into a butterfly, or did a butterfly have a dream of turning into a man named Zhou Gong?"

"....Just which side... is the truth?"

"Hmmm, no matter which side, both are true, both are illusions. Because no one knows what's real or not in this world, so in actual fact, the world in the dream is real and this world is just a dream. Things like happiness are just things from one's heart. No matter if he attains happiness in a dream or in the real world, they are the same. When you are feeling terrible, and are crying, let me use my drugs to send you into the dream world."



"Hmmm."

"I, Matsunaga Danjo, no matter how many times, I will let Hime-sama have a dream full of happiness."

"....Hmmmm."

"What a cute child."

A non stop feeling of dizziness, and a feeling of dropping.

Hisahide used her own chest to hold onto me who had such a feeling.

A little warm, the feeling isn't bad.

A love from a mother, and from Sagara Yoshiharu, I had not been able to get it.

If so, then let me be doted on forever by Hisahide like this.

Just...

The pain that almost threatens to tear her apart from her chest, can't seem to disappear.

Why is that?

As expected, this world is the real one.

But in some corner of her heart, Nobuna who was being hugged by Hisahide doesn't seem to agree.

".....Maeda Inuchiyo has returned."

Manase Belchior and Nene brought Inuchiyo who had returned hurriedly to Nobuna's room.

".....Inuchiyo...? Where did she go...? Where is Juubei and the rest? Where's Saru....?"

Nobuna who had just woken up did not understand the current situation of the Oda army.

The incident that the Asai and Asakura allied forces were forced to stop at the streets of Wakasa due to Yoshiharu, and had moved from Lake Biwa to western Omi, and is currently at Mount Hiei.

The incident about that bastard who sniped Nobuna and escaping into Mount Hiei.

The incident about Shibata Katsuie and Niwa Nagahide leading the army who had retreated back to Kyoto to surround Mount Hiei, but was unable to begin attacking due to Mount Hiei prohibiting females from entering.

The incident about Takigawa Kazumasu and Saitou Dousan who was protecting Mino and Owari and were unable to send reinforcements due to anti-Nobuna forces appearing everywhere.

"...Where's Saru? Where is Saru and Juubei? Where are they? Inuchiyo?"

Seemingly drunk, Nobuna with misty eyes repeated again like she is sleep talking.

"...Hey, Inuchiyo, Saru is alright, right? And where did Juubei run off to?"

Inuchiyo, Manase and Nene, all of them can't seem to tell the truth to this weak Nobuna.

At this moment, Matsunaga Hisahide said, "First, another sip of the medicine."

To not let Nobuna collapse, Hisahide let Nobuna drink a high potency drug.

"Danjo-chan, is that.... Nono, to let Nobuna-sama drink such a medicine... What if she is poisoned...?"

Though Manase tried to stop her, but with a sentence from Hisahide, "Quiet, geezer!" and a sharp stare, he was able to stop it.

"All I did was to give Nobuna-sama a drug that can bring happiness to the heart, right, Nobuna-sama?"

"....Yes....Danjo..."

"Sagara Yoshiharu was chased by Wakasa's omyouji, Tsuchimikado, and was blown to pieces at the end. Not even a single piece of him remains... To take revenge for Sagara Yoshiharu, Akechi Mitsuhide rushed forwards but dropped into a huge crack in the ground prepared by Tsuchimikado, and is currently missing. She is most likely dead."

"...De....Dearuka."

Nobuna's vision suddenly blurred as she loses all her strength, her face lightly caressed by Hisahide.

Manase was shocked, "You...You who has all the while stayed in this house, why did you know to such an extent, Danjo-chan?"

Danjo laughed alluringly," I have spies called puppets."

The expression that Nobuna had now...

is like the world had already been destroyed.

This world is a dream... It definitely is.

The real me is currently having a wedding with Saru with everyone's blessing... Uhh, to marry such a lecherous Saru, why must this Owari princess marry such a Saru and have his child?

"....Hime-sama, please open your eyes. If Hime-sama doesn't take control of the situation, the Oda clan will be destroyed."

Inuchiyo reached out to her.

Ahh? ....Don't tell me... this Inuchiyo... is real?

Being shaken by Inuchiyo, Nobuna dreamingly said.

"....Inuchiyo... is real?"

Inuchiyo who had made her resolve, nodded.

"....I... saw it... myself... Yoshiharu is already dead.... Mitsuhide too... I'm afraid...."

Nene collapsed in an instant, and was howling on the tatami.

"Onii-sama.... Onii-sama... Nene... is willing to replace Onii-sama to die... I had already tried my best to pray to God-sama, Buddha-sama, Nekogami-sama....!"

Totally collapsed...

In Nobuna's heart, something had totally collapsed, and grief, vanished as if it wasn't there.

In replacement the feeling that poured out,

Fury...

Even if her body was burned to ashes by flames, intense fury that will never disappear..

"Hmmm, Tsuchimikado had entered Mount Hiei and had joined with Asai and Asakura allied forces. What should we do, Nobuna-sama?"

".....Attack.... Mount Hiei....."

Manase said with panic, "If we do such a god damned thing, all Buddhist factions in Japan will become our enemies!"

But Matsunaga Hisahide continued to whisper in Nobuna's ears.

"Nobuna-sama, though Mount Hiei is a spiritual mountain guarding the gate of demons of Kyoto, but in actual fact, it is the real culprit of all the unrest in Kyoto. Commanding the monks and defying Kyoto's shogunate, they had recently even reduced Kyoto to a sea of fire during a recent war, even young children weren't spared. Though they claim "Women are unclean", but the monks are all like hungry wolves."

Hisahide's words become the last push.

Nobuna forgets about the pain at her abdomen and stood up.

Her vision is still blurry.

She still can't see properly the things in the room.

Her body is still weak.

But fury was radiating from both her eyes.

And because of this.... immense fury that she had never experienced before...

Supported Nobuna weak body up.

The me that thanked the gods after seeing such a dream was too dumb.

Those monks at Owari too, after saying that they can cure Father by praying with gusto, they were just looking at Father dying day by day when they are reciting their incantations. And after that, they even wanted huge pay shamelessly.

What was too much is "Your father had killed too many people, this is retribution." and had blamed her father who had just passed away.

At that time, because of Hirate-jii-san stopping the berserk me, those monks survived from the fire.

But this time...

This time I must...

Saru...

Juubei...

Let me kill all those who took my dream away, those who kill my companions that shared my dream, those who claimed they are the protectors of the spiritual mountain yet said females are unclean, kill them all.

I have to let those bastards taste their just desserts....

But... just like she is still dreaming... her body doesn't have any strength.

Is this a continuation of the nightmare? Or....?

"...Riku and the rest won't be able to do it, I will command the army personally... Bring me to the base right now... Manchiyo."

At the support of Hisahide, Nobuna gave the order with difficulty.

This isn't the normal way Nobuna addresses Inuchiyo and Nagahide.

Nobuna who is truly conscious would never give such an order.

"....Those monks who use Buddhism as their shield and do whatever they like, Tsuchimikado, and Asai Asakura, kill all of them....."

Her voice is hollow, as if Nobuna had become Hisahide's puppet.

But, this is still an order given by Nobuna herself.

And though her vision is blurry, but the fury in her eyes is undoubtedly Nobuna's.

Inuchiyo who is too serious said, "Roger." and bowed.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

## Chapter 3 : Mitsuhide's trial

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### Part 1

Deep in the night.

In the extremely dark wilderness.

There were \*Ding Dang\* sounds coming from everywhere that was made by the soldiers.

"....Damn, I can no longer distinguish which direction I'm heading....."

Sagara Yoshiharu was using a sword as a walking stick, as he walks through the wilderness based on his instinct.

During the period when he had fallen for Tsuchimikado's trap at Mizusaka Ridge, Yoshiharu should have been blown to pieces.

To save the last few lives of the back troops, Yoshiharu should have used his own life as a sacrifice.

But,

Though Yoshiharu had wanted to sacrifice himself for his companions, but in the end, he wants to live on no matter what.

Images of Nobuna crying flashed through his mind.

Inuchiyo,

Katsuie, Nagahide.

Juubei, Motoyasu, Goemon.

And Hanbei who was waiting for his return in Kyoto, Nene too...

I might be trapped in this sengoku era forever, never to see my family again.

But even so..... There are people here who will cry for me, people who wished that I had lived on.

If I gave up here, those comrades who died in the "Retreat of Kanegasaki" for Nobuna and I will scold me.

Since I have declared to change Nobuna's fate,



Since I have decided to fulfill Nobuna's dreams.

Then, even if he had to crawl back, he must live on.

These are his true feelings.

Even if he is being willful, he wants to go through with both feelings of his.

"I'm a man full of desires, I won't give anything up."

The comrades of his back troops, myself, they must all live.

At that time, Hanzou who appeared behind Yoshiharu whispered to him the last strategy.

Using the trick, "Finely Hidden."

Though it's a trick that he had not even heard of, but since it's a suggestion from the seasoned ninja, Hanzou,

Yoshiharu agreed without much thinking.

Then, Hanzou shouted.

"If that's the case, go die now, Sagara Yoshiharu."

Ninja skill, "Finely Hidden" is such a trick.

During the time Hanzou opened up his smokescreen to block the vision of everyone, he made an exchange with Sagara Yoshiharu and his "substitute."

The real Sagara Yoshiharu was hidden in a hole that the ninja squad dug on the spot.

And that substitute is, yes. It was Zenki.

After Zenki wore Yoshiharu's armor, he changed his looks and became Yoshiharu.

At almost the same time the ninja squad led by Hanzou and Zenki completed their preparations, Tsuchimikado, who appeared deep in the valley blew away the smokescreen.

And at the instant when the vision of everyone was recovered, the exchange was finally completed.

What happened later was what Akechi Mitsuhide, Inuchiyo and Motoyasu who had come to rescue Yoshiharu saw.

For his comrades of the back troops, the substitute Zenki was blown to pieces.

Because the bomb was specially created by Hanzou, the substitute was blown to fine pieces and the trick wasn't discovered.

This is the trick, "Finely Hidden".

The real last resort.

If Tsuchimikado discovered any clues, the whole plan would go under, or after the substitute was killed, it is a possibility that Tsuchimikado will ignore the promise and continue killing the back troops.

Even if Tsuchimikado did what he promised, the soldiers who were hunting escapees may surround the warriors to capture them.

Hanzou and the ninja squad had planned to dig Yoshiharu out after Tsuchimikado left and once again escort him back to Kyoto.

But, Yoshiharu who was waiting underground did not see Hanzou returning for him.

"Something must have happened."

Using the protection of nightfall, Yoshiharu crawled out by himself, took an armor from a fallen comrade and started to walk back to Kyoto.

Whether it was good luck that due to the appearance of Juubei Mitsuhide that diverted Tsuchimikado and caused him to not be able to discover the trick, or the bad luck that Hanzou places the escorting of Motoyasu as the foremost priority, the Yoshiharu as of now did not know yet.

Correct, it was because Matsudaira Motoyasu not leading any troops had come to Mizusaka Ridge alone, so Hanzou who had prioritized protecting his master abandoned the buried Yoshiharu.

Because they were in the midst of enemy's ranks, Hanzou did not say anything about the trick to Motoyasu, and when she heard of it, they were already back in Kyoto.

But, this too, was not known to Yoshiharu since he was in the ground.

Obviously, the thing about Mitsuhide who had fallen into the crack, the shaken Inuchiyo who had reported that Yoshiharu was dead, the thing about Nobuna who had become Hisahide's puppet and gave the crazy order to "Burn Mount Hiei", Yoshiharu knew nothing of all of these.

No matter what, I must use these two legs of mine and make it back to Kyoto.

Having made such a resolve, Yoshiharu, started his nightmarish escape.

His stomach growling, and his throat was parched, his whole body was heavy like he was carrying lead.

But even so, Yoshiharu did not stop walking.

There is a place he must go.

If he had fallen right here, what will Nobuna's fate become...?

I can't die yet.

With the last of his strength, he crawled forwards to avoid the escapee hunting squads.

Countless times, he was almost discovered by them.

There were also countless cuts on his body.

At the time when he couldn't even see where he was anymore,

It started raining.

The escapee hunting squads started to narrow down their searching areas.

"There! Right there!"

"Ahh, he looks kinda weird, it must be a famous warrior!"

"We can get lots of rewards from Asai-sama!"

Yoshiharu dragged his legs that had become numb and ran in the mud.

No words of discouragement was said, his eyes were still filled with hope. Anyone would have sunk into despair at such a situation, but Yoshiharu was only thinking about him surviving.

And that which supports Yoshiharu is...

"Nobuna.... Nobuna, wait for me, I can't die at such a sort of place,  
"Dodgeball Sagara" isn't for nothing! Run, run, hurry and run!"

If I die here, what will Nobuna think?"

I can't let that fellow experience such a thing.

If it's that fellow, she will say she can't forgive me, but her heart will still be sad for me.

Most likely.

No, definitely... she will feel sad.

It must be so.

So,

So, I must live on.

Ahhh, damn.

Why is my mind full of that girl? I can't see the front anymore.

Can't see my legs too.

Somehow, there was only Nobuna's face in my mind.

Don't tell me, I...

like that girl....

Somehow, without me noticing... I have fallen in love with her...?

That girl will never be together with me. She is the girl that was closest and furthest from me.

But, it's a fact that I like her, there's no helping it.

Because of this...

Because of this, I want to see her again.

"No! Nono! It's not like that! I... Yeah, I'm just too tired! It's just because of fatigue and fear, my mind is a mess now. A totally not cute boyish girl like her appearing at such a time in my mind is just to increase my fury. I must, after returning, get the reward... That girl's kiss, I'm taking it now, that liar

who always goes back on her promise of the rewards, I will not let you escape this time! Clean your lips and wait, Nobuna!

\*pant\*

\*drip\*

\*Ouch\*

His back... seems to be hit by an arrow.

"...The dodge ball Sagara was actually... Damn it, I must have been distracted by Nobuna... Damn it, I must ask that girl to increase the reward..."

Yoshiharu slowly falls forward into the mud, as in his heart he was thinking...

His vision, and the feelings of his limbs, was fading away...

Kyoto...

Kyoto... I.. want to return...

That was his last words...

"Nene..... I'm sorry.... I can't return to your side already....."

Why is this, that god-sister that was always disturbing him, interrupting his flirting with girls, at the end, he apologized to her without thinking.

Yoshiharu finally noticed.

So it's like this.

I... at this world... I already have a family here...

So, to be able for me to put in effort till now...

"Nene, I, will return... to you...."

Sagara Yoshiharu's heart, stopped beating...

## Part 2

"...Unbelievable, gorillas are different from normal people. They are agile and the mountains are their hometown. No, mountains are where they breed and live. How can that bastard die in the mountains?"

The warrior that holds onto the fate of Yoshiharu which was almost finished is.....

Yes, she is Akechi Juubei Mitsuhide.

Mitsuhide, who everyone thought it was hopeless and had given up as she had fallen into the deep crack with her horse, seems to have been protected by the heavens. Now, she was in the wilderness of western Omi alone looking for Sagara Yoshiharu.

It's true that at that time, Mitsuhide, who had lost her calmness, did not notice the peculiarity ahead and had fallen into the huge crack that Tsuchimikado prepared.

But...

As if it was possessed, Mitsuhide's horse struggled with all its strength to hold on to the walls of the crack.

Like "Heaven's will" forbidding Mitsuhide to die and thus controlling the horse.

The horse's stunning actions protected Mitsuhide, as she pulled out her sword just before the horse's strength was exhausted and jumped up from the horse.

And then, forcing the blade deep into an opening between the rocks. Forcefully stopping the fall.

This is a miracle that can only be achieved by Mitsuhide's remarkable reflexes.

At that time, the strong impact had dislocated Mitsuhide's shoulder, but she did not give up as she pulled another sword to use like an ice tool. Using just her left hand, she climbed step by step towards the top that she can't even see, and when she finally returned to the valley, Motoyasu and the rest were gone, and Yoshiharu had already crawled out of the ground and retreated himself.

The smart Mitsuhide found the hole that Yoshiharu hid in and discovered the trick.

"This is a substituting trick done by both Hanzou and Zenki. Senpai is still alive!"

But Matsudaira-dono and Maeda-dono are different from this smart Mitsuhide as they are hopeless idiots, so they must have not found out that Senpai was in the ground and had returned to Kyoto like this.

But, that ninja who resorted to any means to complete his mission sure is a cold one.

To protect his own master, Hattori Hanzou abandoned Sagara-senpai and me who had fallen into the crack without hesitation.

"Now, the only one who could save Sagara-senpai is me, Juubei Mitsuhide... That bastard, whose only good point is his eloquence, will never be able to return to Kyoto himself!"

Mitsuhide who forced her shoulder back started the search for Sagara Yoshiharu.

And then,

Finally, she found him.

Sagara Yoshiharu, who was deep in the bushes, had fallen face first into the mud.

His hand that seemingly wishes for something is reaching out towards Kyoto.

"Sagara-senpai, till when do you plan to sleep? Hurry and get up!"

Mitsuhide with a gleeful face "With this, Gorilla-senpai will owe me a huge debt, hurray!" lifts Yoshiharu up while smiling.

But, Yoshiharu's eyes did not open.

"Because he is a monkey, so he can't wake up easily once he's asleep. What is this about, it's me, senpai, Oda clan's smartest, Juubei Mitsuhide!"

.....

"Uhh, there isn't any reaction, just like a corpse."

\*Piak\*X3

Slapping him a few times, Yoshiharu still does not move.

"...Don...Don't tell me...?"

It was only then that Mitsuhide found an arrow imbedded in his back, and had hurriedly took the arrow out,

What's lucky is, the arrow did not hurt his lungs.

This... isn't a fatal wound...

"With only this....? That's pathetic, Sagara-senpai... Senpai?"

Mitsuhide who did not notice the atmosphere finally sees it.

Sagara Yoshiharu whose eyes were tightly shut had no breath.

In an instant, Mitsuhide turned pale.

"....Wait....!? Gorilla!? S...Sh...Shit....!"

Putting her ear onto Yoshiharu's chest...

"Heartbeat... is gone too!"

His body had not turned stiff,

He should be dead quite recently, there is still hope.

But, Yoshiharu is basically right before hell's gates.

"Wh...Wh...Why did you die when I'm mumbling to myself? If you die like this, won't it seem to be my fault!? Uwahh... Uwahhh... Uwahhhhhhhhhh!"

Mitsuhide who had some knowledge in the medical area took a few deep breaths, while trying her best to think of ways...

Wait!

I...I...I...I...It's all finished if I panic now! Calm down, calm down, calm down!"

If I...I...I...I...I don't save him immediately, Gorilla will really be a corpse forever!

"His heart had j...ju...jus...just stopped! I...I...It...It's lucky that you were found by me Mitsuhide, s...so...so...so... it's possible to revive him!"



Umm, the way to save a soldier that had collapse on the battlefield...

I...I...I...I...I see.

Air... To inject air straight into the lungs...

A...An...And then, do a few hits onto the chest area, to let the heart beat again!

Here, here!

Mitsuhide send a straight punch to Yoshiharu's chest without thinking.

"Huh? If this strongest warrior Mitsuhide was serious, Gorilla's ribcage, and heart will all be pierced! Ahhh, if so, if so, won't it look like I, Mitsuhide am the one who killed Senpai!? Before anyone sees anything, please come back to me. \*Knock\* \*Knock\* \*Knock\* \*Knock\*".

The heart massage should be enough like this, as expected, air is what is lacking, I must inject air into his lungs....

"....If that's the case, to do that, to inject air, I...I...I...I remembered it to be....."

I've remembered.

I can do it! Laughing and putting on a victory pose, Mitsuhide suddenly shouted "Ahhhh" as her eyes became wet and she started trembling...

"C...Ca...Ca...Can't it be done without the kissssssss!? Ahhhhhh!"

If she doesn't do the CPR soon, Yoshiharu will really be beyond help. Mitsuhide noticed this.

"S...S...St...Stop joking! I, Mitsuhide... I... I... am a perfect female warrior comprised of both looks and talent, w...wh...why must I let this Saru take my first kiss!? Though it's because of CPR and this won't count as a kiss, but, but to let this Gorilla be my first kiss target, no way.....!"

As Mitsuhide was blushing, with tears flowing all over her face and struggling, Yoshiharu's remaining time was slowly finishing.

The sleeping face of Yoshiharu, no it's a dying face, nono, Senpai isn't dead yet, so it should be a sleeping face...

Anyway, upon seeing the face of Yoshiharu, Mitsuhide finally decided.

"You...useless gorilla! Compensate me properly once you wake up!"

No, wait, if I don't brush my teeth, my mouth stinks... Mitsuhide's mouth definitely stinks now... Ahh, if I had known this, I would not have eaten so much of Tennoujiya's specialty miso takoyaki. It's all that glum faced Tsuda Soukyu's fault for saying "These takoyaki can't sell at all.", how can those delicious miso takoyaki not be selling at all!?

Ahh, I'm escaping from the fact that I need to kiss Gorilla!

"Ahh, Ahh! Enough! Here goes....! Uhh, Uhhhhh!"

Though she hates it to the point of almost crying, and in actual fact, large amount of tears had started dropping, but she won't be Mitsuhide if she abandons her comrade now.

"...At Kiyomizu temple, Sagara-senpai saved my life, this time, let me Mitsuhide save Senpai's"

\*Hiss\*

With a blushing red face, Mitsuhide inhaled a deep breath and force her cute lips onto Yoshiharu's lips.

"...Um....Ummm....Ummmm."

To not let any air leak out, her lips overlapped Yoshiharu's tightly, as she sent air to his lungs.

Of course, though she really hated it, she did not forget to pinch Yoshiharu's nose.

Mitsuhide's breath had a mildly sweet scent, totally void of any stench of takoyaki.

But, without any preparation, the stench of Yoshiharu's mouth flew into Mitsuhide's nostrils and Mitsuhide was stunk dizzy by it.

Finally, she had sent all the air in her lungs into Yoshiharu's mouth... but,

"...It...It didn't work? Yo...You want more...? Uhh, Uhhh... Hum...Humiliating... I... I might die first....."

You bastard! Not just my first kiss, even my second kiss, you plan to take it!?

....

No, even my third kiss.....

...

Uhhh, it's the fourth time now, I Mitsuhide, am already dirtied, I can't face Nobuna-sama now.....

...

A total of five times, Mitsuhide did CPR to Yoshiharu while crying.

Once she had decided on something, she will finish it earnestly, that is the good point of Akechi Juubei Mitsuhide.

After the 5 sessions of CPR ended,

"Uhh... \*Cough\* \*Cough\*\*Cough\*\*Cough\*\*Cough\*

Yoshiharu suddenly coughs violently.

His heart started beating again.

"I did it.... There is nothing that this clever Juubei Mitsuhide can't do! See Nobuna-sama, I, Mitsuhide will definitely bring Saru back! Ahhh... My mind is full of Nobuna-sama giving me compliments and praises. Mitsuhide is so happy now!"

\*Cough\* \*Cough\*\*Cough\*\*Cough\*\*

"Anyway, Gorilla, hurry and get up, how long do you plan to dilly-dally!?"

"...Uhh...Uhh...Uhh..."

Mitsuhide placed her wide forehead onto Yoshiharu's forehead.

"Ahh... it's hot!"

And then, she put her ears onto Yoshiharu's chest again.

Bathump...

"....The heartbeat... is weak, too weak. It's almost like it will stop at anytime. Senpai must have exhausted himself too much when retreating... If this goes on...."

The season is totally winter now.

And the time is already deep in the night.

And it was still raining in the forest.

The cold air of the mountains and rain droplets were slowly taking away the body temperature of the collapsed and exhausted Yoshiharu.

"Ahhh, enough, the situation is going from bad to worse, but this smart Mitsuhide is a super genius capable of anything! At this time, all we need to do is to use the same methods that those who have met with mishaps while climbing mountains. So as to say, all I need to do is to maintain Senpai's body heat!"

Though she said that, but if she raised a fire, she might be discovered by those escapee hunting squads....

And to raise a fire in the rain isn't a simple matter.

Mitsuhide looked at her surroundings and discovered a narrow cave.

"If we hide in it, we can get shelter and it will definitely be warmer than outside.""

Uhhh.... Carrying the moaning Yoshiharu on her back, Mitsuhide walks towards the cave.

Though the opening is narrow, but it was quite wide inside.

With a high ceiling, countless rocks supported the cave.

This is a work that needs thousands, tens of thousands of years.

There was a rumor of "Life of 20 years" in this chaotic sengoku era.

But this cave was slowly formed through long ages, years that humans could never even hope to live through.

In front of them, the quarrels between humans are minuscule.

Mitsuhide who looked upon this wonder put her palms together and prayed, "I wish that Nobuna-sama can end this chaotic era earlier."

And then, she remembered, "Oh my god, I've forgotten about Gorilla."

"Geez, what a troublesome senpai."

Saying it angrily, Mitsuhide allowed Yoshiharu to lie at her side as she gathered a few twigs to raise a fire.

"Hmph, with this, I have returned the debt at Kiyomizu temple, senpai! This won't be discovered easily, hurry and recover your strength!"

But,

Yoshiharu who had yet to wake up, moaned with tightly closed lips.

"....Cold...."

And then repeating this word...

Mitsuhide who was sitting beside Yoshiharu sighed.

"Looks like just raising a fire isn't enough, ca...can't be helped. I have no choice but to use the method to revive a freezing companion during mountain mishaps."

Mitsuhide breathe in deeply as she started to strip off her armor.

"G...Geez, Gorilla is really lucky. You... If you had not met this clever Juubei Mitsuhide, you would definitely be pig's food now."

Mitsuhide...

Had stripped off of all the clothes she was wearing.

The moonlight that seeped into the cave, revealed the naked body of the embarrassed Mitsuhide.

The young and beautiful body.

If this cave is a wonder that was born naturally, then the beautiful body of this girl is the real mystery of a miracle being born naturally.

This utterly beautiful girl lowered her head reflexively.

Mitsuhide is so embarrassed now that she wants to commit seppuku.

But... to save Yoshiharu now, she had to warm him up through skin contact.

At Kiyomizu temple, Sagara Yoshiharu and Nobuna, together had saved my life.

No, not just my life.

The heart that had lost control, and was controlled by Matsunaga Danjo Hisahide, had too been saved.

"Please, Juubei. If you survive through this but have lost your way, think about this blood soaked Kiyomizu temple! Remember, to save you, she had kept shooting those tanegashimas, this Nobuna's silhouette....!"

In that Kiyomizu temple that was lit with flames, those tear filled eyes of Sagara Yoshiharu that seemed to want to transmit something as he shouted.

At that time, in the eyes of Yoshiharu, who was putting on a forced expression to looking at me.

Sadness, fury, and friendship and I who had thought it to be strange made me ask "why?", that sad expression that the normally cheerful Yoshiharu put on for the first time.

Why does Senpai look at me with such a sad expression?

At that time, Mitsuhide's heart was pierced by that sad expression.

The feelings that erupted from her heart were hard to be suppressed.

Why?

Just why?

What is it that Senpai wants to tell me....?

Before she solved that mystery, Mitsuhide will never let Yoshiharu die.

No, maybe...

Not just not wanting me to die,

But wanting me to live on properly...

"....Sagara-senpai, tonight, let Mitsuhide warm Senpai's body."

Mitsuhide stripped off Yoshiharu's clothes and tightly hugged the shivering and naked Yoshiharu in the front.

It's cold.

Skin that was so cold that it's like a corpse.

His back, and hands had countless wounds.

Just what kind of a cruel and violent battle was that Retreat at Kanegasaki...?

"Always... Always pushing himself so hard and being reduced to tatters... Senpai..."

Massaging Yoshiharu's back, Mitsuhide used her own thighs to overlap with Yoshiharu's, just a little bit more, as she tried her best to transmit her own body heat to Yoshiharu through their skin.

"....Mama...?"

Yoshiharu dreamily said.

Mitsuhide discovered, Senpai is dreaming.

".....Good.... I, have finally returned... Mama."

Mitsuhide silently caressed Yoshiharu's hair.

"....I had a terrible, terrible dream... I... slipped into the sengoku era... Though I did have lots of fun... But in the end, I was tasked with protecting the rear of a defeated army... and was chased by those escapee hunting squads... and had died... alone... Terrible dream."

He cried.

Always saying, "I am Sagara Yoshiharu, who loves all girls in the world.", and had always put on a strong front, and never showed a weak side. That Yoshiharu is currently weeping in Mitsuhide's bosom like a small child.

"....I, had tried my best... I did... I had someone I like, and I wanted to protect her, for her, even if I'm forcing it, I will do what I can... But, I, wasn't able to do it in the end... But, I'm just a high school student. Battles, I can't... When my comrades die one by one in front of me, and when I had to kill enemies who I had no hatred for, and when bullets are flying..."

"....It's gonna be alright, Yoshiharu. Mama is here, is right here. The terrible dream is already over, just act like a spoilt child as you wish."

Mitsuhide used a voice full of maternal instincts and said.

"....Mama, it's scary... I want to go home... Want to see my friends, want to go to school, want to, see Mama..."

"Geez, Yoshiharu is really a coward. Seems like he is really from a peaceful future, but Yoshiharu have already tried your best, your very best... He is a courageous and strong child."

Her two hands hugging Yoshiharu's head tightly, plunging his face deeply into the pure breasts of hers that had never been touched by a man.

"....Mama..."

I could feel that Yoshiharu's face is becoming much more relaxed.

Yoshiharu came from the future. The Japan of the future is a totally different world compared to this sengoku era, and had not experienced war for more than 10 years. The whole world was filled with peace, and of course, battles had not disappeared in the world, but like what Yoshiharu once said, in his world, everyone was trying their best to maintain the peace.

So Yoshiharu, or his parents, had no knowledge of fighting.

For the first time, Mitsuhide thought, "Maybe it's really like this." and believed what Yoshiharu said.

This country, in the far future, is a country without war.

Yoshiharu had came over from that far, far away world, and, in this sengoku era that had no relations with himself, for the sake of everyone's happiness, and to end the battles of this world, he had been fighting till now.

Mitsuhide thought, if the situation was reversed, will she work as hard as Yoshiharu, will she hold back the tears and the complains, and keep moving forwards while looking ahead....? Maybe, she would collapse from fear and cry non-stop in a corner while shivering.

"....Yoshiharu, is great, is a really great child, Mama will definitely praise Yoshiharu too."

Seemingly, she could see the sleeping Yoshiharu reveal a light smile.



"Yoshiharu, you don't want to return to the dream world? And... once again, try your best in the dream world?"

"...Ahh... I will work hard, Mama. I, had a promise with that person, so... I will try my best."

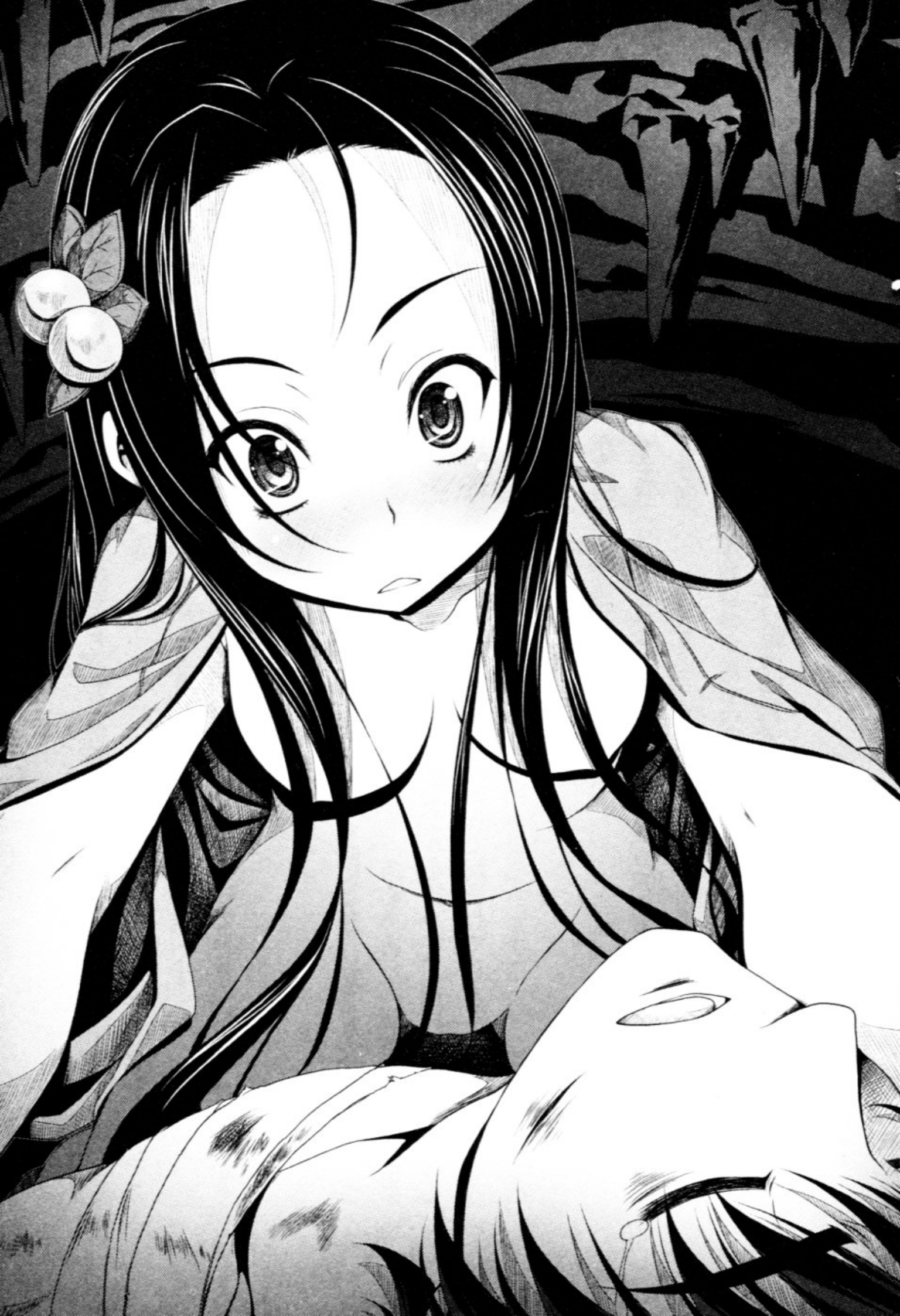
"What a great child."

Slowly, Yoshiharu's body heat began to return.

The thumping of his heart was directly transmitted to Mitsuhide through the skin contact.

Like finally surpassing a mountain top... Mitsuhide who had relaxed finally noticed.

"...I've become strange, my heart... thump, thump, thump is beating non-stop."



Mitsuhide's embarrassment returned immediately.

EHHHHH!?

HUGGING WITH A GUY, N...NA...NAK...NAKED...!?

Th...This fellow, why is he sleeping on my breast so soundly!?

"Ah, Ahhhhh, th...th...thi... What is this, you're bothering me, hurry and let go of me...! Mitsuhide's cute breast aren't meant to be slept on by some gorilla like you!"

Panicking and covering herself with a shirt, Mitsuhide pushed Yoshiharu's head away from her violently.

"....Mama...It's cold."

"You are actually awake, right?" Mitsuhide didn't think twice as she roared like a Kansai person.

"W...Wh...Who is peeking!? Ahh, this is a misunderstanding, Nobuna-sama. If you said, "So Juubei, you like this Saru~ After picking up Saru who had fainted, you started mumbling to yourself and treated him like he's yours! Yucks, are you a pervert!?" and starts despising me, if that really happens, then I, Mitsuhide can only choose to commit seppuku."

I have to get away from this fellow as soon as possible.

"....Mama...It's cold."

"Yes, Yes, Yes, I know! Just a while longer!"

"To have such a thing happening to me, what bad luck."

Once she thought that the other party was this gorilla, she became so embarrassed. Mitsuhide thought to herself, "This fellow doesn't even have 1% of the human genes, he is a total monkey, monkey, monkey!" but her body was still hot.

"Now that I think of it, at such a time and in such a place, no one will be peeking on us."

Because she felt so embarrassed from hugging Saru, she can't sleep... In her heart, Mitsuhide was blaming Yoshiharu non-stop as she tightens her arms while hugging Yoshiharu and becoming more and more grumpy.

"Ah... Enough of this! Hanzou! Hurry and help!"

But, actually, there were people close to the opening of the cave. Those people gathered after seeing footprints. They were escapee hunting squads.

They numbered over a hundred.

One by one, they gathered at the entrance.

"Ehhh, what's with these people, just go off like this, please return!"

"Seems like I have to finish them off.... Ahh, I've forgotten my sword!"  
Mitsuhide tensed up.

From the escapee hunting squad, there was such a voice.

"So suspicious... Don't tell me, they are Oda army's warriors acting like lovers?"

Eh!?

We've been discovered!?

Mitsuhide had no choice but to act a "Lovers meeting secretly." play.

Hugging the still sleeping Yoshiharu tightly with both her hands,

Umm... Lovers... Lovers meeting secretly... Are there any lines I can use!?

Anyway, I, Juubei Mitsuhide, before having an affair, I had no experience in love at all! H..H...He...Here, I had to use Tales of G...Ge...Ge...Genji those illicit picture books as reference, ahhh, anything is okay, I must say something!

"Umm, Sagamaru-sama, Mitsuko, has always admired Sagamaru-sama!"

There wasn't even aliases, as expected from the careless Mitsuhide.

The movements of the soldiers had stopped.

A little more!

"U...Um, though I have been scolding you, Saru, idiot, useless, but Senpai... Mit... I Mitsuko has always admired Sagamaru...Umm..."

Mitsuhide was talking to herself, and the guy did not say anything.

"What, is that a monkey play or what?"

Those words...

Uhh....

Mitsuhide was shocked...

"Wh...Wh...Who is the monkey? If it's monkey, it should be Sagara-senpai, it definitely is! Ahhh, to think that Mitsuhide is treated the same like this gorilla, ahh, all had come to an end."

At the same time she kissed Yoshiharu's face, unknowingly words came out from Mitsuhide's throat.

"....Senpai, that expression at Kiyomizu temple, that sad expression, just what did Senpai want to tell me!? I, have been thinking about Senpai unknowingly from then on! The one that Senpai wants to protect, and loves, just who is it? It should be Hime-sama, right? Or, Um, maybe Senpai, wants to.. after knowing about my fate, wants to tell me about that sad fate....? Because knowing that I have such a sad future... so, wanting to protect me... Senpai, is that what you wanted to tell me?"

WH...WH...WHA...WHAT THE HELL AM I TALKING ABOUT!?

Though she wants to stop, though they are in a situation where they could be killed anytime, but every cell in Mitsuhide's body seems to not be under her control...

"Senpai, save me! I, can't see anything else once I'm fixated on something! I'm easy to be fooled, and don't notice the atmosphere, I will definitely meet with lots of failures in the future! Please, please teach me who will be turned in to a bad child suddenly..."

Uwahhhh, this isn't the normal things that this smart Juubei will say!!!

Though her senses were shouting, "NO!!!", but her body was filled with unstoppable feelings.

"Senpai, during the time at Kiyomizu temple, maybe from then on... towards Sagara-senpai... I have fallen in love with you..."

That sad expression, It was the first time... for me...

Senpai who was always energetic, to the point of troubling others, just what could be the thing that was hidden in his heart... He must have known something, and was hurt by it.

I, want to heal and calm Senpai who had continued to fight with this unspeakable sadness.

In the place of Senpai Oka-sama that he could not meet.

...

Huh?

She felt a stare...

"...Umm, Juubei-chan, what have you been mumbling about from just now...? Ah, don't tell me you are punishing me? Is this one of the "72 methods of bullying"?"

EHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH?

Whhhhhhy did you wake you, you ero-saruuuuuuuu!?

Mitsuhide was overcome by an urge to suffocate Yoshiharu, but due to this lovers play that she had to put on, she fell into Yoshiharu's chest and cried.

"Wait, what is going on, don't move around, what if I become excited? Do...Don...Don...Don't tell me you are serious? N...N...No...No matter what, I'm a healthy high school student, if this goes on, I will lose control!"

"Huh? W...Wh...Wh...What the hell are you talking about? H...Ho...How can I...I...I, Mitsuhide say such mushy things to an ero-saru like you! Though if you cried and proposed to me on your knees, "I like you, please marry me.", it's not like I can't consider it for a moment, but the situation now is totally different!"

"Anyway, why must I be the one who proposes to Juubei-chan? No matter what, if you don't let go of me now, things are going to be terrible. I'm telling you now, though I'm very tired now, but separated from my will, guys who felt the threat of death will want to leave descendants due to instinct, so please...."

"So...So it's like this! All was just an act! Like this, due to acting, so no matter what I have said, they are lies and have nothing to do with anything. What I said just now were ALL lies!"

"Wait, breasts, your breasts are squeezing me! Why are you leaning on me!? Uwahhh, Juubei-chan is broken!? Goemon, save meeeeeeee!"

"Ahhh, Sagara-senpai! W...Wh...What is going on, from just now, there was something hot, and stiff on my tummy, just what is....."

"Nothing! It's nothing!"

"A...An...Anyway, just continue acting! From now on, what was said are all lies, forget them after listening! Juubei likes Senpai! Senpai is so suitable to that tragic battle! I just want to see your smiling face! As long as it's something I can do, I will do everything for Senpai! If it's Sagara Yoshiharu-senpai, Akechi Juubei Mitsuhide is willing to be an obedient child!"

...

...

Ah...

It's over...

Wanting to say out the words in her mind, she said out the full name on impulse.

Noooo, as expected, Mitsuhide is a straightforward child that has nothing to do with lying and acting!

Anyway,

This isn't the time to stick out the tongue and put on a cute smile.

"Wahh, this can't be! That woman is Akechi Mitsuhide!"

"Then that Sagara-senpai... As expected..."

"Sagara Yoshiharu!"

The soldiers rushed into the cave in an instant.

"It's...It's all over!"

"So that's it, so that's what happening! To not let these soldiers find out, we are acting lovers... I thought for a moment...."

"Wait Gorilla! Why did you sink your head into my breasts again! That's too rude! Anyway, hurry and get up!"

But, Yoshiharu who was too exhausted was still unable to get up.

"...S...Sorry, but it seems like my strength has not returned... Only that area is full of spirit..."

"Ahhh, enough! What a useless Gorilla! You are really a monkey, a useless monkey!"

"....That's embarrassing."

Her two swords were both broken when she had climbed up the crack.

"Damn it, if this goes on...!"

"Sagara-senpai, leave this to me!"

Mitsuhide and Yoshiharu are in a crisis.

Mitsuhide had decided.

Even if it's bare fists, she must protect Senpai, as long as there is still a breath left, she must not let Sagara-senpai suffer anymore injury.

"Bastards! Listen, I'm the descendant of Tsuchizaki Gen, Akechi Juubei Mitsuhide, Koretou Hyuga no Kami!"

Wearing the shirt on her shoulder, Akechi Mitsuhide stood up.

Her heart was naught of fear, and was filled with the thought of protecting Sagara Yoshiharu.

The soldiers were all stunned by Mitsuhide's resolve, and Sagara Yoshiharu's eyes were too attracted by Mitsuhide's courageous look.

Different from Nobuna who shines like a bright sun, Mitsuhide's beauty is as calm and quiet like a moon. A beauty unable to be compared, the firm will that was hidden inside this beauty will not lose to Nobuna. Yoshiharu can feel instinctively, Mitsuhide warming his body, saying such embarrassing things, those weren't for praises or rewards.



This fellow, even that twisted Nobuna was able to acknowledge her and name her as her successor.

She was indeed... remarkable.

"...Like a fairy that had materialize in the real world....."

"Wait, we don't know whether it's the real Juubei Mitsuhide and Sagara Yoshiharu, it might be a trap! Everyone, be careful!"

In the squad, a man who is like the leader said, and that voice, he seemed to have heard it before.

"Roger!"

They were swinging axes, chains and swords.

Those weapons are all swinging around, almost as if they are thirsting for Mitsuhide's flesh.

"Hurry and run, Juubei-chan, don't care about me!"

But Mitsuhide had put on a stance, and had not retreated even a step.

With the skills of the Kashima Shinto style, this female warrior that had unlimited talent and courage did not lose out even during a fist fight.

"I, am asking the heavens now. If I follow my fate.... if the meeting between I, Mitsuhide and Sagara Yoshiharu was to end like this, in sad fate of the sengoku era, then we will not die here! Our meeting, whether it's right or wrong, heavens, please give me an answer!"

But, at this time.

The right shoulder that should have been relocated let out a feeling of pain.

Her right hand can no longer move.

Mitsuhide, made her resolve to die.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

## Chapter 4 : Rout at Mount Hiei

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### Part 1

Mount Hiei's winter.

Choosing the woman prohibited spiritual mountain, Mount Hiei, the Asai and Asakura allied forces led by Shougakuin Gousei launched an assault during the night. The defensive battle of retreating back to Mount Hiei once the situation was disadvantageous to them continued, but at that night, they received unbelievable news from their scouts.

"Oda Nobuna still lives! She has personally taken command of the Oda army surrounding Mount Hiei, and it looks like they are preparing to burn the whole Mount Hiei."

Asai Hisamasa did not believe such a report.

Just the fact that Oda Nobuna lives is already shocking, and now she wants to attack Mount Hiei.

"Im...Impossible... To burn Mount Hiei!? Mount Hiei has close to 800 years of history, it is the most esteemed holy mountain in Japanese Buddhism communities!! No no, it is a spiritual pillar that people have worshiped ever since they believed that Gods live in spiritual mountains."

Hisamasa's words speak of this era's common sense.

"Is Oda Nobuna crazy? As a woman daring to attack mount Hiei is already extremely disrespectful, now she wants to burn Mount Hiei!?"

Opening up "Tales of Genji" beside him, Asakura Yoshikage who was looking at the moon exclaimed, "What a crazed girl."

"I admit defeat, Oda Nobuna, as expected from a woman proclaiming to conquer the world. You are fundamentally different from the other women in this era."

"It's not a time to say "As expected from", is it?" Hisamasa shouted.

The still composed Asakura Yoshikage sighed, "Oda Nobuna had the resolve to battle to the end with us, and we had not expected that at all."

"Listen Hisamasa, Mount Hiei's grounds are flat. It's totally unlike Mount Gifu where it is easy to defend and hard to attack, because we had not

worried about being attacked, we did not make any preparations to defend. So, if she really attacks us, Mount Hiei will be very vulnerable."

Yoshikage continued.

"Under Oda Nobuna's resolve, the plan with the foundation of prohibiting women from entering had been overturned completely... If they really start burning Mount Hiei, Oda Nobuna will become the enemy of all Japan's Buddhism communities, and her dream of conquering the world will become unfulfilled. Knowing this yet deciding to burn Mount Hiei, this had let me become excited...."

"Oda Nobuna really wants to burn Mount Hiei while preparing to die with us, is that fellow really a demon lord? Or is she just a rural girl with no common sense..... I really want to see her with my own eyes, no, I must bring her back with me to Ichijodani...." Asakura Yoshikage's eyes emit abnormal brightness as he starts sneering.

The cowardly Asai Hisamasa had already turned pale.

"Th...Thi...This isn't the time to joke around, Yoshikage-dono. Now that you mention it, the one who chose Mount Hiei as our base, wasn't it you? Hurry and do something!"

Yoshikage laughed and snorted, "What an uninteresting fellow."

"Hisamasa, we have three ways. The first way is to initiate the attack. Though it is too late if they start burning. Now, we can lead our whole army to battle with the Oda army, using our speed to bet everything on the outcome."

"They might have predicted that we will attack upon listening to the report of them burning Mount Hiei, and have prepared their formation and are waiting for us to fall into the trap ourselves, isn't there a more foolproof plan?"

"Arara... You coward is really paranoid..." Yoshikage laughed at Hisamasa as he said the second plan.

"The second plan is to let the monks be our missionaries to negotiate with them, telling them that if they burn Mount Hiei, the whole Oda clan will become the enemy of all Buddhism communities and ask to postpone the battle. If Oda Nobuna isn't really crazy, she will definitely agree to our request and we can retreat back home with no injuries, but with this, the

surrounded Oda army will gain a chance to breath and the situation will stagnate."

"This is truly a safe plan..." Hisamasa mumbled.

"But Yoshikage-dono, what is the last plan?"

"Seeing that there is no chance to win, you surrender to Oda Nobuna. You return your position as head back to Nagamasa who married Oda Nobuna's sister and become a monk, with this, the Asai clan will escape the fate of total annihilation.

"Surrendering is impossible!" Hisamasa stood up as blood rushed to his head.

"T...To let my son Nagamasa become the conqueror of the world. I've even done things like betraying the Oda clan. Surrendering is not possible at all, Yoshikage-dono!"

Yoshikage thought, this Asai Hisamasa is really an indecisive man.

"Yoshikage-dono, here we should use the second plan! We can't wrap Mount Hiei into this because of us, we should stop the battle and engage with the Oda clan head on next time."

Listening to Hisamasa, Tsuchimikado who was sitting at the side laughed, "Ara ara, the despicable betrayer is now acting like the good guy, why don't you say honestly that you don't wanna die?" And Shougakuin Gousei who was silent all this time said, "If that's the case, let me be the missionary to negotiate with the Oda army."

"Uwahahahaha, unclean women wanting to burn Mount Hiei. I, Gousei will never let you do as you wish. And, a truce formed on equal terms is making my tummy hurt, just let me shout, 'Girls, kneel in front of me!' and ask them to surrender."

Gousei continued.

"This main hall has the 'Holy Flame' that has been burning for more than 800 years. We must protect it. I, Gousei will never let those crazy bitches do as they like. I won't let them burn Mount Hiei!"

"Shoukaguin Gousei who treats women as his enemies, if this disillusioned and petty guy becomes the missionary... It will really be interesting if the negotiating of the truce fails." Yoshikage sneered.

## Part 2

"Hanbei-dono, please wake up! If you don't stop Hime-sama....!"

Kyoto, Myoukaku Temple.

Nene tried her best to shake awake Hanbei.

Manase Belchior who prescribed the medicine to Hanbei said, "It's regrettable, but I think she still needs a few days." and tried to stop Nene many times, but Nene doesn't want to give up.

Now that Yoshiharu and Juubei can't return, Nene's last hope is the genius strategist, Hanbei, but Nene is not willing to give up.

"Though Hime-sama has woken up, but because of Onii-sama's death, she had given the order to burn Mount Hiei together with the Asai and Asakura allied forces in a fit of anger! And she doesn't listen to the advices of her retainers! Now, the only one who could stop Hime-sama is Hanbei-dono!"

Nene shouts as she continues to shake Hanbei's body... The tears in her eyes flowing down unknowingly.

"...Uhh...Uhhh... Onii-sama and Akechi-sama can't come back anymore... Goemon-dono isn't here too... If even Hanbei-dono doesn't wake up, Nene... Nene doesn't know what else to do anymore....."

One droplet of Nene's tears fell onto the body of the corpse-like Hanbei.

And then...

"...Nene-sama... What you said just now, is that true?"

Hanbei finally opened her eyes.

"Hanbei-dono! You've woken up!"

The tear stricken Nene hugged Hanbei tightly.

It came true...

Nene's countless prayers while she cleansed herself with cold water, one of them had finally been heard by the heavens.

"Nene-sama, Manase-sama, please tell me what has happened."

"Hanbei-sama! If you don't hurry and stop Hime-sama, things are going to get bad!"

At the back of Nene, there was a big build man with a single namban monocle and a blonde haired sister with a cross hanging on her chest. She said.

"After losing both Sagara-sama and Akechi-sama at the same time, Hime-sama had lost her senses. Though it's just desserts for those monks who are so arrogant to take up arms and challenge the Oda clan, but, for the dream of conquering the world, Hime-sama's plan of burning Mount Hiei is just too reckless!"

The man wearing a monocle is the merchant, Imai Sougyu.

"I've heard that Mount Hiei held the highest place of learning in Buddhism in all of Japan, we can't just burn the valuable treasures full of knowledge. Though the monks at Mount Hiei had forgotten their place and took up arms, but, if that's the case, we can just disarm them!"

The sister is Louis Frois who had permission to build Namban churches in Kyoto.

The two of them had rushed over after hearing Nobuna's sudden change, and had wanted to drop by Myoukaku Temple to discuss with Sagara Yoshiharu before going to meet Nobuna. Yet, they heard the news of Yoshiharu's death from Nene instead.

"Hanbei-dono, no matter what, please persuade Hime-sama!"

"Everyone, tell me all that has happened during the period when I was unconscious!"

The crafty Hanbei understands what had happened and what may happen in the future instantly.

Maybe it's the result of Manase Belchior's treatment, or Nene's prayers that moved the heavens. The fever that had tortured Hanbei is totally gone and Hanbei had a clear head now.

"I understand. Everyone, we need to go to the front camp now, to solve Nobuna-sama's misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding?"

"According to my deductions, Yoshiharu-sama did not die at Mizusaka Ridge."

"What is this about, Hanbei-dono?" Nene asked loudly.

"I will explain to Nobuna-sama the specifics. Nene-sama, please wait here for Yoshiharu-sama's return... Yoshiharu-sama will definitely return!"

Caressing the shivering Nene's hair who was mumbling, "Onii-sama is still alive...?", Hanbei smiled.

"Of course, because Yoshiharu-sama isn't a bad guy who will abandon such a cute sister and die like that."

### Part 3

The preparations for burning Mount Hiei have finished.

The Oda army had stationed half of their forces at Sakamoto facing Mount Hiei, led by Niwa Nagahide, Shibata Katsuie and Maeda Inuchiyo. But in fact, they were chased away by Matsunaga Hisahide because she rejected the plan to burn Mount Hiei.

The rest of the forces were concentrated at Kyoto, at Nobuna's base in Mica Slope.

The night's air is dry and windy.

The conditions to start burning had been fulfilled.

Nobuna sat on the bench in her base as she stared at the map in front of her face silently.

The wound on her abdomen cannot be said to have healed.

A surge of pain affected her occasionally.

But whether this surge of pain was sent from the wound, or from her own heart, Nobuna can no longer distinguish between them.

Matsunaga Hisahide stayed at Nobuna's side like a mother and fed her the drug frequently.

"The preparations are all finished, we will reduce Mount Hiei to ashes tonight, Nobuna-sama, please give the order."

"...Dearuka."

Hisahide did not change Nobuna totally into her puppet like she did with Kuchiki Shinano, because if she did so, she will destroy Nobuna's heart. Hisahide who dotes Nobuna like her own daughter will never do that to her.

But, under the continued coercing of Hisahide as she fed Nobuna the drug and said it's a "painkiller", Hisahide whispered to the confused Nobuna.

"To let all people of the world know there aren't any gods or Buddhas, burn Mount Hiei to a pile of ashes."

"We must kill all those fallen monks who treat women as if they aren't human, kill all of them."

"Those enemies who had taken your beloved, we need to let them know their foolishness for defying the conqueror of the world. We must let them regret being born into this world."

Those poisonous words, such acts, she had totally treated Nobuna like her puppet to control her.

If this continues on, Nobuna's heart will be consumed by this drug that Hisahide prepared. And finally become a puppet without any sense of self.

But, Hisahide who dotes on Nobuna and had accepted her like her own daughter, she, was filled with the desire to heal Nobuna's feelings and had not discovered this.

Though I don't know the real way to help Nobuna who had suffered a huge deal, but, to help such a Nobuna, killing off all of Nobuna's enemies is my mission. Hisahide can only think of that.

But, the Nobuna now was trapped by the pain and sadness of losing both Yoshiharu and Mitsuhide due to Asai Hisamasa's betrayal and the immense fury.

"It's all fine now... The dream of conquering the world, or the dream of sailing the world... Without Saru and Juubei, there is no longer any meaning to them anymore."

"Come, Nobuna-sama. Plunge these fallen monks who used Buddhism to do whatever they want into the depths of despair. Whether if it's Asai



Asakura who had stolen your beloved from you, or those fallen monks, burn all of them right now. Please give the order for the attack!"

Nobuna who was caressed by the smiling Hisahide thought, "Yes... Those bastards who stole my most important person... those companions that shared my dream... If I don't kill them all... the revenge for Saru and Juubei... I can't take it anymore...", her heart was slowly sinking into darkness.

Nobuna's cold eyes lost their focus as she glanced at the sky as she mumbled.

".....Troops, burn... Mount Hiei..."

Just at that instant when Nobuna gave the order to attack,

"PLEASE WAIT!!!"

Takenaka Hanbei ran into the camp while panting.

Accompanying her is Imai Sougyu and Frois.

"Nobuna-sama! If you burn Mount Hiei that is both this country's ancient authority and Buddhism's representative, all the Buddhism communities will rise up against Nobuna-sama! And, if we were seen as enemies to the Osaka Honneko temple which has a shocking amount of worshipers, then Nobuna-sama's dream of conquering the world will be pushed back at least for another 10 years!"

Hanbei who was always a coward, tried her best to persuade Nobuna while making her resolve to die trying.

"And if you do that, you will lose the support of the people! Though it's a fact that those monks have fallen to a hopeless level, but the common people do not know of this! They... They will just see Nobuna-sama as a cruel sixth demon lord who killed the buddha! And the Tendaizasu of Mount Hiei is the elder brother of Himiko-sama, if you burn Mount Hiei, the kingdom will lose their trust in Nobuna-sama too! All of Japan will treat Nobuna-sama as the enemy!"

Nobuna looks at Hanbei's face wordlessly.

She still can't think properly.

"...Am I still wandering in the dream world....? Or... But... Enough, Things like Tenka Fubu... it's already... meaningless... If I don't have the ambition for Tenka Fubu, Saru or Juubei won't die... If I don't... act now... Saru and Juubei's revenge....."

Nobuna who was overdosed with drugs had lost normal decision-making skills.

That which controls Nobuna now is only her tremendous fury.

"Nobuna-sama! Please wake up!"

Hisahide narrowed her eyes and scolds Hanbei, "Shut your mouth, this battle is to take revenge for your master, Sagara Yoshiharu."

But, Hanbei did not stay silent.

"Matsunaga-sama, the one who should shut up is you! I had noticed from just now, what you had been feeding Nobuna-sama. Nobuna-sama isn't your puppet!"

"It's just medicine to kill the pain, but... This medicine could not help Nobuna's pain in the heart, if Nobuna-sama doesn't kill off all of her enemies, Nobuna-sama's pain will never go away!"

"Dearuka... As expected, this is... a continuation of the nightmare too...." Nobuna thought dreamily.

"...Last time when you were serving Miyoshi Nagayoshi-sama, you fed your master with huge amounts of drugs, and coerced the confused Nagayoshi-sama to kill off those retainers who were loyal to him! Maybe, you had already started planning to kill Shibata-sama, Niwa-sama and the aide Inuchiyo-sama? After finishing the battle of burning Mount Hiei, you will continue to isolate Nobuna-sama.... That is not an act of loyalty!"

Matsunaga Hisahide snorts at Hanbei's words and said,

"I'm confused by what you said, isn't it the responsibility to reduce the master's pain?"

"Those are two different matters! We should bet our own lives to stop our master when she starts walking onto the wrong path. This is the responsibility of us retainers too! And, though I don't know if Akechi-sama is safe, but, Yoshiharu-sama wasn't killed by the Shikigamis at Mizusaka Ridge!"

Nobuna-sama's face changed to shock.

"Is this a dream... A continuation of a dream...? Or... reality....?"

They seem to be saying things like Yoshiharu is still alive,

If that's true... I hope this is reality,

But, the courage to believe that this is reality, Nobuna did not have.

If once again, "I am really happy." and when she was relieved to live in such a world, someone whispered to her again, "It's all a dream."... She doesn't want to experience that despair again.

Scared, I'm so scared.....

"....Saru is still living... What is going on?"

"I, Hanbei couldn't go along with Yoshiharu-sama due to my illness, so, I asked Zenki-sama to take care of him before he went out. And, Goemon had also went along with him to save Asai Nagamasa-sama. Hattori Hanzou himself was inside the back troops Yoshiharu-sama was leading in the "Retreat of Kanegasaki". After that, Matsudaira-sama and Akechi-sama went to rescue Yoshiharu-sama and witnessed Yoshiharu's death... With these clues, the mystery is now solved!"

".....Mystery?"

"Yoshiharu-sama was born and lived in a peaceful era without any wars, and thus is a very kind and gentle person. He isn't someone who could coldly watch his important companions die one by one without doing anything. But, he isn't one who will throw away his own life to protect his important companions, and his most precious Hime-sama. The reason is, because this person is someone who never gives up. A very, very greedy person, no matter what, he will grab it with his hands! So....."

Nobuna is confused.

Hanbei's words, are they spoken in reality, or... As expected, this is still a dream.

Maybe, the wishes in her heart became the form of Hanbei as it consoles her.

Or maybe,

Or maybe....

"Nobuna-sama, in the kouga ninja arts, there was a trick named, "Finely Hidden." It was rumoured that a substitute be used to replace the master, and let that substitute be blown to pieces for his own master, a cruel ninja art. Because the substitute was blown to pieces, there is no way to see the real identity. To Tsuchimikado, he will never do such a thing like blowing up Yoshiharu-sama who, can be used to exchange for a reward, so I think Hanzou-sama hid the fact of blowing up Yoshiharu's substitute. Though Yoshiharu-sama would not do a cruel thing like letting his companion die for him, but what's lucky is, there was someone very suitable for this task inside the back troops, he is....."

Hanbei took out a talisman and threw it into the air in front of Nobuna.

Shikigami, summon.

Zenki with his fox face appeared in front of Nobuna.

"Oh, isn't this Oda clan's Hime-sama?" Zenki knelled down onto the floor. "Ahh, it's as Hanbei-dono said, even if I was blown to pieces, I won't die at all. So I had done this "Finely Hidden" trick together with Hanzou, to see if we can deceive that Tsuchimikado. Thanks to Akechi Mitsuhide's sudden appearance, Tsuchimikado's attention was drawn away and the trick worked, it seems."

Nobuna was still, "This is a dream, I'm still having a self-deceiving dream.", and doesn't seem to believe it at all.

".....Saru is still alive...? Th... Then why didn't someone report to me immediately?"

"Ohh, my master, Hanbei-dono had been unconscious all this while, and I can't materialize here without being summoned, so we couldn't report even if we wanted to.

"If this isn't a dream... then where is Hattori Hanzou....? Where is Takechiyo....? Why didn't anyone tell me anything... those two....?"

"I'm afraid Hattori Hanzou-sama hid the "Finely Hidden" trick when in the midst of the enemy territory, only when he had escorted his master safely back to Kyoto, then he revealed the truth." Hanbei said.

"....If that's the case, where are they now... Takechiyo....?"

"Yes, Matsudaira-dono is someone who cherishes her friends, I'm afraid that she has set out immediately to save Yoshiharu-sama who was in the ground after hearing the truth. Now she must be leading quite an amount of troops in the mountains of western Omi."

"....Really... Is that true....?"

Matsunaga Hisahide scolded, "Aren't all of these your deductions?"

"Yes, yes, it's like this~!" Because we were in a hurry, we forgot to leave a letter to Kichi-nee-san to say the truth~"

".....Hattori Hanzou, here! Though it's quite an amount of work, but due to those back troops who had returned to Kyoto safely, who had volunteered immediately to join us in our rescue mission, our mission has now been accomplished!"

"I...I...I...I...I'm so sorry, Kichi-nee-san! So many things had happened. I had not even brought any troops from Kyoto over to Mizusaka Ridge previously."

The tanuki ear, Matsudaira Motoyasu and the dark attire Hattori Hanzou had returned to the camp.

And at their back,

"You've done it, commander! We had always believed in you!"

"Before the commander returns to Hime-sama, he is invincible!"

"We of the back troops, a total of 150 surviving, are now commander's loyal retainers!"

"From now on, our lives are tied, commander Yoshiharu!"

"Ohoh, you finally survived back to Kyoto!"

It's these idiots who have miraculously survived through the "Retreat of Kanegasaki" yet, going back to save Yoshiharu without any rest in western Omi.

These are the companions from the back troops.

All of them had countless wounds on them.

But, their expressions are as bright as the sun.

"The mission with our lives on the line has finally finished!"

"We finally let Hime-sama and commander Yoshiharu survive and meet again in this world!"

"Those companions who died must be feeling elated too."

No matter who, their faces are full of cheerfulness and satisfaction.

But....

"It's fake... This is a dream. I... had a very similar dream just recently, hadn't I? I know. This is a dream. This is just a dream... No words can describe it, it's still all dark. So this is it, this is a dream that I wish for... A dream that would never happen... Hope that was lost, a future that will never come... This is just that...."

Nobuna still can't wake up from the dream world alone.

And....

"Ah, as expected... This is a dream."

From these sweaty men, a young man that was in even more tatters than the rest of them walked in front of Nobuna.

"Hurry and kiss Hime-sama, commander!"

"It's good to be young! It's good to be young!"

"I know I know! You guys, stop this plan of burning Mount Hiei right now!"

Sagara.... Yoshiharu...

A dream, it can't be anything else...

But,

Even if it's a dream, an illusion...

It's okay if it's fake...

Even if she can't wake up anymore, even if her body was destroyed...

Even if that happens, all of it doesn't matter.

Even that, is a good thing.

Tears clouded my vision.

Even so, I wish to meet this man again.

"...I, am still dreaming. Saru should have died and not come back anymore..."

"Oi, Nobuna? Why are your eyes so misty!? What is going on, it's me! Sagara Yoshiharu!? Hi, it's me. ME! OI!"

"....Dream? A dream again... Uhh, Uhh...."

"Anyway, Nobuna....? What is with you, why do you look so sad? Your appearance is weird!? Don't tell me, don't tell me you are regretting again!? Or, or you are crying because you regret the decision to kiss with me!?"

Yoshiharu, walked nearer.

A step,

And another step.

Just like a real living Yoshiharu,

If this is a dream, let me never wake up forever.... Nobuna prayed.

"Huh... To close your eyes, Oi Nobuna, open your eyes!"

With a \*piak\*, my face was slapped.

"Strange, this was a dream, yet it feels painful...." Nobuna feels strange.

"Yoshiharu-sama, Nobuna-sama drank too much of the drug that Matsunaga-sama prepared. She seems to not be able to distinguish her dreams or reality... But, I believe if it's Yoshiharu-sama, you will definitely be able to bring Nobuna-sama back to the real world, \*Sob\*Sob\*"

Hanbei said to Yoshiharu.

"Geez, I tried my best and finally returned here with difficulty, there's no helping it! Ok, Nobuna! In the western fairytales, a sleeping beauty can only be woken up with a prince's kiss! Well, though I'm a monkey prince from the monkey country....."

Eh...?

This is...

Don't tell me, he wants to kiss me?

His lips are getting nearer...

Wait,

Wait a minute...

There's still so many people watching, and at such a place,

Ah....

But because this is a dream, so it does not matter.

Even if I kiss Yoshiharu, no one will blame me, right?

So...

So... Anything he wants then.

"....."

Nobuna did not resist.

Closing her eyes, she waits for Yoshiharu's lips

"Go! Commander! Go! Commander!"

Those companions from the back troops started cheering.

"Nobuna? N...Not running away? Th...there's no helping it then... If that's the case... I'm taking the reward!"

At that instant when their lips were about to touch,

\*Inhale\*

The overly anxious Yoshiharu did a big sneeze.

...

Uwahh?

This... This stench is....?

Takoyaki....!?



"Isn't this... This isn't the Saru from my dream!? The Yoshiharu in my dreams will never have such a nauseating stench from his mouth just before kissing!"

In the vision of Nobuna, who was still wandering in a dark dream, a light appears in an instant.

It's in a shape of "Smelly Saru with takoyaki".

"What is the most unacceptable is, in Saru's front teeth, there was a piece of vegetable stuck between it, that's the worst." The emptiness that the drug that Hisahide had prepared disappeared in that instant.

"This isn't a dream!?"

So...So as to say... This fellow is the real Saru, and those "Go!" "Go for it!" "Kiss her!" soldiers are all... real!?!?

The pale face of Nobuna was flushed bright red immediately.

"Eh....EHHHHHHH!?"

\*Bham\*

Nobuna who had regained her consciousness hurriedly gave Yoshiharu's nose a headbutt.

"Ow...Ouchhhhh!? What the hell are you doing!?"

Without any lapse, Yoshiharu's nostrils were pieced with two fingers.

"GO AND DIEEEEEEEE!"

And then,

"To try to steal my lips when I'm not conscious, you ERO-SARU!"

"If we do that, we can't hide from the retainers already!" Nobuna fiercely released a combo technique towards Yoshiharu.

First, she gave Yoshiharu's right face a tight slap.

\*Piak\*

"Wait... It's me, I'm just taking the reward as per promised....."

But, these words were totally useless in front of Nobuna's combo.

"Sh...SHUT UP! In the teachings of Christianity, didn't they said, if your right face was hit, then you present them your left!? So, prepare yourself to be beaten up obediently!"

Yoshiharu's left face received a slap soon.

"Nobuna-sama? That isn't what it means... Vio...Violence isn't good."

Frois ran over in a hurry and hugged Yoshiharu.

"Frois-chan! This violent woman is too much! I just wanted the promised reward... Why did I have to go through such a thing!? Ahh, this world is full of darkness....!"

"It's alright now, Yoshiharu, it's alright now."

Looking at Yoshiharu who was using Frois's well endowed body to comfort himself, Nobuna believed it in an instant.

This is it.

This is without doubt, the real and only world.

Because... In the dream, Saru will only look at me.

But... The real Saru is a hopeless fellow who is obsessed over Riku and Frois cow-like breasts!

So, there's a need to discipline him!

"This ero-saru, hurry and get away from Frois!"

"Don't wanna! You will never understand. I, who was cheated by you who renegade on your promises! As the replacement for your lips, I want to be nursed by Frois's warm breasts, like a baby!"

"Um, Yoshiharu-sama? Pl...Please don't rub my breasts like this...."

"Uwahhhh! What are you doing, traitor! Pervert! HURRY AND GET THE HELL AWAY FROM FROIS'S BREAST NOWWWWWW!"

Without thinking, Nobuna sent a kick to the twisting ass of Yoshiharu as she tried to suppress the urge to cry out.

This isn't a dream.

This isn't a dream!

It's true!

The real Yoshiharu had returned!

"You did it commander! Right after getting beat up by Hime-sama, you dived yourself into sister-sama's breasts, what a high standard!!!"

"As expected from the world's no 1 pervert!"

"This is Sagara Yoshiharu!"

"You guys, control yourself, we are still holding a military meeting!"

At this time...

"Wait a minute! The one who saved gorilla-senpai and letting him scrape through is me, Juubei Mitsuhide! Everyone, why had you forgotten all about Mitsuhide!?"

That wide forehead.

The kumquat that was served as an accessory was missing one. It was most likely eaten due to thirst during the journey,

Akechi Juubei Mitsuhide kicked away the back troops soldiers as if she was walking through nothing and forcefully came in between Frois and Yoshiharu.

"....Juubei!? You're still alive too!?"

"What is with "too", Nobuna-sama! The useless Hattori Hanzou let gorilla-senpai stay underground and retreated from Mizusaka Ridge, I, Mitsuhide replaced him to help gorilla-senpai! Without this genius Juubei Mitsuhide, senpai would already be a corpse buried in the ground!"

Don't tell me, you survived after dropping into such a huge crack... Even seasoned ninjas will most likely perish after experiencing such a situation... The tenacity of Akechi Mitsuhide is as terrifying as that of a roach.

Maybe, this lass had some strange destiny awaiting her!?

Hanzou mumbled with a rare frightened expression.

"Well, those back troops soldiers that disguised themselves as escapee hunters did help me and senpai who were hiding in the cave, so, I won't

pursue the matter of Hanzou and Matsudaira-dono abandoning Mitsuhide and running off by themselves."

Exactly, those escapee hunters who attacked Mitsuhide and Yoshiharu in the cave were actually those companions that had escaped back to Kyoto but headed back in, led by Hanzou and Matsudaira. They were full of the Owari accent but Mitsuhide and Yoshiharu had not noticed that at all, most likely due to the seriousness of the situation.

The experts that were standing at the foremost were ninjas from the Hattori squad.

Are those people that were hiding in the caves real, or are they a trap? To confirm this, they had to act like escapee hunters to the end.

The companions from the back troops started whispering to each other.

"Damn it, we didn't notice it was the two of them at the start, now it became just pure peeking."

"We noticed that only in the middle... that it was the two of them."

"Though we don't know how, but the atmosphere seemed strange, without knowing it, we let them continue on."

"What a waste, it was just a little more, Uwahahaha."

"If I'd have know that earlier, I wouldn't act such a humiliating monkey play no matter what... I regret it! You guys, forget all of it!"

"It's right there in our heads, and we will never forget it, UWAHAHAHA!"

"Precisely, so don't mind us at all."

"You guys! That was all a fake! FORGET ALL OF IT NOW! If you dare leak out even a word, I will kill all of you!"

Under Mitsuhide fierce stare, they became silent and shivered.

"Monkey play... What kind of play is that...?" Nobuna can't help but feel curious, but, it does not matter anymore.

It's not a dream. The real Yoshiharu and Mitsuhide survived and have come back to my side. That alone is enough.

"So I say, Nobuna, hurry and stop this plan of burning Mount Hiei! As you've seen, both Juubei and I are alive and well! I'll say this first, we are not ghosts or illusions or anything like that!"

"Ahh...Hmmm."

Yoshiharu's voice awakened the moved Nobuna, straightening her back, she slowly, stood up from the bench.

"Anyway, I went berserk just now so suddenly, but I had promised Saru! Kiss... Nan...It's Nanban word is kiss, right? If... If I don't kiss with him...."

Though she wants to fulfill the promise right now and kiss Yoshiharu, but now, the retainers are all watching from the side. "T...To think that my lips will be stolen by this Saru... St...Stop joking... But, though I don't wanna, but since I've promised him, And without Saru's back troops, we would all have been killed... But, but like I thought, if it's not when we're alone...."

Nobuna held back her tears, forcing down the urge to hug Yoshiharu.

"NOOOOO! Now I must concentrate and try to break out of this situation, the thing about giving Saru his reward... That can wait till we are alone!" Everyone was cheering, "Come and cry it out, hurry and cry it out, hug Saru now." As blood rushed towards her head and everyone is staring... "How can I cry out now!"

The urge to hug Yoshiharu tightly and cry into his chest was so strong that it's almost unbearable, but she must endure it. Nobuna bit her lips.

"....Hm...Hmph! Even so, as expected of Saru, you are much more capable in the wilderness!"

"Idiot! How can I die so simply like that!"

Yoshiharu laughed.

That vegetable that was jammed between his front teeth was revealed again.

Compared to Asai Nagamasa's elegant smile, it's like comparing shit to a moon. "Of course Yoshiharu is the shit.", the difference is obvious as he had no relationship whatsoever with the word "elegance".

"Maybe, the real Saru..." She can't help but think.

"It's totally different from the Yoshiharu in her dreams."

"So disgusting..." Nobuna mumbled as her face blushed.

"Eh? What did you say? I'm sorry but I didn't hear it!"

"What I say is, you are getting more disgusting every time I look!"

"What a totally uncalled for criticism and malicious tongue... But, it's the normal Oda Nobuna once again, ahh, that's good!"

Looking at Yoshiharu's energetic smiling face,

Nobuna's body... She feels a warm strength flowing out from the depths of her body, and was filled with that strength.

Though she was right in the middle of a crisis having pinned down at Mount Hiei, but...

There was not a trace of fear in Nobuna's heart.

With this, she can finally live with Yoshiharu in the same world. A dream had been fulfilled.

Though it's a crisis, but I'm no longer alone now.

At this world, I've met someone that will be with me.

Just from thinking these,

She feels that there is inexhaustible strength.

So Nobuna feels, she can, and she will definitely break through this dangerous situation.

".....Nobuna-sama, this is for soothing the senses, please drink this."

Matsunaga Hisahide held out the drug slowly to Nobuna's lips, but, Yoshiharu shouted, "Wait, wait!" and took away the drug.

"Hisahide! Don't let Nobuna drink such a weird medicine from now on! Before meeting me, wasn't Nobuna in a dazed state!? Your medicine is too suspicious!"

"Saru, without Danjo's medicine, I would have died from the gunshot wound. Though I might have drank too much, but don't pursue the matter on my account."

"Since you've said that. Ok, Hisahide. Please don't do such a dangerous thing from now on!"

"Understood... Nobuna-sama isn't someone I can manipulate."

After being scolded by Yoshiharu, the stunned Hisahide obediently admitted her mistake and retreated. This gave Yoshiharu a shock.

".....Nobuna-sama is a strong child, and... Compared to my Persian drug, didn't Nobuna-sama have a "medicine" that is even better than mine? The medicine that I've prepared is totally useless, hoho."

"Huh? Nobuna's medicine? What do you mean?"

".....Geez... What a blockhead!"

Hisahide did not continued on as she closed her mouth.

"Wait, it's not what you think, don't say anymore, Danjo!" Nobuna rushed to stop Hisahide.

With this, the plan to burn Mount Hiei was stopped.

And then, Nobuna called back the retainers that were chased out of the camp.

"Sa...Sa...Sa...Saru, Mi...Mi...Mitsuhide are still alive? Ah, Ah, Legs, yes, is there legs?"

While crying and trembling, they confirmed that Yoshiharu and Mitsuhide have legs.

"Yesyesyes, they are alive! If that's the case, you... Hurry and stop Hime's berserk actions!"

"Hurray! Not a ghost, not a ghost!" Shibata Katsuie was so happy that she started waving her arms and legs.

Because she was too happy, she unknowingly kicked away the soldiers beside her.

"From now on, we need to negotiate with Mount Hiei, though we aren't out of the crisis... But just from seeing both of your expressions, hmmm. Full points."

Niwa Nagahide laughed quietly as she said. Her eyes were hiding some traces of tears.

"....I'm hungry... Kumquat, lemme eat it."

Inuchiyo reached out her hand towards Mitsuhide's accessory, but Mitsuhide shouted, "N.O.P.E!" and rejected immediately.

After that, they made up upon Yoshiharu's persuasion.

With this, other than Goemon who was saving the imprisoned Nagamasa and Nobusumi couple, all the retainers of the Oda clan had finally reunited back by Nobuna's side.

"Everyone! Though I want to celebrate Saru's and Juubei's return, we are still pinned down by the Asai Asakura allied forces! If this goes on, the Miyoshi clan and Rokoku clan will definitely attack Kyoto from the back. Once the shogun, Imagawa Yoshimoto is captured, we lose! Are there any good plans?"

"Once it starts snowing, the Asakura troops can only retreat back to Echizen..." Yoshiharu nodded and said.

"Compared to Shikoku, the Miyoshi clan is more possible to advance from Settsu. At the same time, Kouga's Rokoku will attack Southern Omi and will seal off the way connecting Kyoto and Mino."

Imai Sougyu's information came from his rival, Tsuda Soukyu. He who had once used Konoe Sakihisa's plan to defeat Nobuna had started to follow Nobuna's actions outwardly, but it may all be a farce to hide his own ambitions.

"Dearuka, though it's regrettable that we had fallen into the enemy's tricks... but now isn't the time to regret. What we should do now is to lure Asai and Asakura allied forces out from Mount Hiei and battle it out with them, but what's difficult are that these fellows are just too irritating."

"Uwahhh, don't tell me I can never return to Mikawa!?"

"Don't worry, Takechiyo, I will break out of this situation no matter what."

"Though we may say that, we are out of ways if this goes on. 20 points."

Just when all of them are thinking about a way.....

"Mount Hiei's missionary request an audience!"



"Being asked by Tendaizasu to protect Mount Hiei, I, Shougakuin Gousei am here to ask a surrender from these female warriors!"

With his whole body emitting an alcohol stench, a big build man appeared.

"That fellow tried to ambush us in the night but was defeated by Katsuie, and then escaped back to Mount Hiei."

"Using the rule of "Prohibiting girls" as a shield and not knowing any shame, what a rough and cowardly man. 0 points."

"Just what does he treat girls as!? Unforgivable!"

Though Nobuna and the rest put on a disgruntled expression, Gousei did not mind at all as he started talking.

"What a chaotic era this is, what anarchy, unclean girls holding weapons and fighting with men... How regrettable and pathetic."

Gousei said such things and rejected the tea brought forth by Inuchiyo with the reason, "Unclean."

"...If that's so, please eat some Uiroumochi." Inuchiyo endured as she held up the plate.

"It might be poisoned." Gousei kicked the plate away, not even wanting to touch it with his hands, and continued talking loudly like he doesn't care about the situation.

"Asai Hisamasa-dono and Asakura Yoshikage-dono could not tolerate your actions of burning the holy Mount Hiei. Oda Nobuna, I'm now giving you the chance to surrender to us, state your conditions."

"He's just a missionary yet he knows no shame...." Katsuie whispered to Yoshiharu at her side.

Nobuna said with a composed face.

"Rather than surrendering, how about we have an equal relationship!? We have a few conditions on our side."

"First, hand over Sugitani Zenjuubou who tried to assassinate me. A holy mountain used by monks for training, it's not a good thing if the news of an assassin hiding in such a place were to leak out."

"Hmph, that is impossible. That useless Sugitani Zenjuubou has been exiled from Mount Hiei. We do not know where he has gone."

"Dearuka. Well, I don't really care about that fellow, but, there is no leeway in the next three conditions."

"What!? But, I will listen to you nevertheless, Uwahahahaha."

"First, give us that Omyouji who acts like a thief, sneaking into the "Retreat of Kanegasaki" and almost killing Saru and Juubei, that Tsuchimikado!"

"....Hmph... I see, It's okay, if it's just handing him over."

"He agreed rather easily... Maybe there's a trap somewhere...?" Nobuna started to have doubts, but now isn't the time to hesitate.

"Second, Mount Hiei must sign an agreement to never help Asai and Asakura clans, and will disarm all monks from now on and return back to the original tasks of a monk."

"What is this, disarm!? Are you an idiot, how is that sort of thing possible!?"

"Refusing is not an option! Originally, monks should not take up arms, aren't worshipping Buddha and saving the common folk to get closer to the essence of Buddhism your job? If you love fights, how about you go become a soldier!? As a soldier, I will not object to you going to war for the conquest of unifying the world. Your people who are not willing to stop being a monk and yet wanting to wave weapons around, you guys, are just too shameful!"

The female warriors of the Oda clan stare at Gousei silently.

"Uwahn, what is with this pressure, just a few of them were able to produce such an immense pressure." Gousei broke out in sweat, and with difficulty, he squeezed out these words.

"Do you agree? If you don't disarm completely, whether if it's Asai or Asakura, you monks will be burned to ashes! This is not a threat! It's a final warning!"

"Monks are not spared, is that true?"

"Though you are monks outwardly, but in actual fact, aren't you guys soldiers that are grouped together!? Waging war is to take lives from both parties! To us warriors, this is a battle betting our own lives! Just attacking

us one-sidedly, and if the other party retaliates you will use your bullshit reasoning saying they were disrespectful towards Buddha. We don't take this kind of bullshit here!"

"But... Without any weapons and have not broken any rules, monks that are high in moral values aren't few in Mount Hiei, isn't it?"

"In actual fact, those monks had all been chased away due to lecturing us..." Gousei thought in his heart, as his tone can't help but shake a bit.

But, the next words from Nobuna gave Gousei an even bigger shock.

"Those monks who had ignored all your doings for all these years, they are all guilty!"

"Yo...You, don't you have any respect towards Buddhism!? What a brat deserving of heavenly punishment!"

"Wrong! What I don't respect are those hypocrites and despicable bastards who use Buddhism as a symbol and yet doing all kinds of bad things! If there really is a God or Buddha, they will never punish me who punished these villains for them."

"That's why I say... It's because of this that you are a brat that we can't speak reason with..." Gousei mumbled.

"Then, this is the last condition! This is the most important one, I'll never compromise on this."

"There is more!? What is it this time, what's the third condition?"

"The place to sign the peace agreement must be at... The main hall of Mount Hiei! I will personally go into Mount Hiei and sign it!"

"Only this is definitely impermissible!!" Gousei stood up violently, using his incredibly loud voice and shouts with fury.

"Stop joking, you damn brat! You namban lover and punishment deserving fool! The main hall is a holy place housing and worshipping the "Holy Flame" for a few hundred years. To Mount Hiei, it's like the heart, the most holy place of all! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ALLOW UNCLEAR WOMEN IN IT!"

Negotiations broke down.

"What the hell are you doing? It's just a little more, isn't it ok if I sign the agreement on your behalf?"

"Shut up Saru. Though a guy like you won't understand, but doing things like prohibiting women at this new era that has accepted namban culture, we will be too outdated to continue treating women as unclean! This fallen monk seems to be having, "Ahh, because of all the female warriors, the air here had become dirty..." sort of expression, it pisses me off, and I can't help it if I just add another condition unknowingly!"

"Set a new condition unknowingly!? Control yourself a little, if this goes on, our efforts at the "Retreat of Kanegasaki" will be all gone!"

Gousei said without a trace of fear, "Inferior women will never enter the main hall, only this I will definitely not agree, if you don't like it, feel free to cut off my head, but can you girls do it? Uwahahahaha!" while looking at Nobuna and Yoshiharu's couple quarrel.

"Though I can totally understand Hime-sama's feelings, it won't be good if the negotiations breaks down, 8 points."

"They are the monks of the holy Mount Hiei, but to enforce a rule like prohibiting women, they are totally treating us like fools! Even if they are disarmed now, they might rise up and become our enemy again using the reason of prohibiting women, we should just burn them after all!"

"Actually, this incident is caused by the Asai and Asakura clan using this rule of Mount Hiei. So, as long as this rule exist, Mount Hiei will very likely be the base for any anti-Nobuna forces... But, burning them isn't good..."

\*Sob\*Sob\*."

"....These monks, dare say Inuchiyo's tiger hat is unclean... Unforgivable!"

"These monks seems to be quite stubborn~ Kichi-nee-san is too known for her stubbornness too~ How troubling~"

"There's a saying between merchants, "For profits, it's okay even if the conditions are disadvantageous.", right now, peace is our most important objective. The last condition is too forceful."

"Both Europe and Japan, why does the religious world treat women to be unclean, maybe, it's because of the breasts of women? The expression of

Gousei when he is looking at my breasts is like saying "The servant of demons", full of fear and hatred, that makes me so scared...

\*Shiver\*Shiver\*"

"They know nothing about us yet treat women as unclean. These bastard monks don't even have the worth to let us kill them, because it's troublesome, allow me to poison them all."

"T...Th...Though I don't really understand the situation, but what is everyone doing now? Uhh...Uhhhhhhh....."

The opinions are totally divided.

And to the wary Gousei, Hisahide's special skill of seduction was useless too.

Yoshiharu, who was knowledgeable about the sengoku games was too troubled by the rule of prohibiting women.

If there are no cute girls and big-breasted girls in the world, even the perverted Yoshiharu might not survive a day, so he totally can't understand the ancient views of thinking that women are unclean.

Nobuna, whose perfectionist mindset had surpassed others by 300 years could not suppress her feelings of wanting to disarm Mount Hiei and at the same time, removing the rule of prohibiting women.

"If...If that's the case, it won't be good for Gousei to dislike women. So, why don't the bishoujos of the Oda clan serve them to let them change their impression on us?"

Katsuie said out her dumb idea, and Yoshiharu instantly said with excitement, "Good idea, everyone can cosplay as bunny girl, mikos and maids to serve those monks! I can have some good eye candy too!"

Nobuna rejected loudly, "Huh? Miko? Maido!? Won't that be conquering the world using seduction!? If we really do it, the impressions of female warriors... "

"Uwahhh.... I'm so sorry, so sorry Hime-sama! I...I...I... don't plan to suggest things like conquering the world using seduction!"

With teary eyes, Katsuie seems about to burst into tears as Yoshiharu continued saying.

"....This isn't good, Nobuna, don't care about the rule! That will be removed by themselves around the Meiji era, so...!"

"Meiji? When will that be!?"

"Umm, around 300 years from now."

"Huh? Are you an idiot!? Can I wait for 300 years? I want to destroy this stupid rule now!"

"Uwahhh, aren't you greedy!?"

Gousei who had been sitting at the side without saying anything had stood up.

Most likely he was afraid that the female warriors present won't let him go and turn him into a hostage.

"Uwahahaha! It's about time for me to go, rather than forcing to remove our rule of prohibiting women, we might as well get burnt to ashes by you guys! Come at us then!"

At this time.

Someone unexpected... The sister Frois tugged at Gousei's sleeves with all her efforts and not letting go.

"Please wait! Please talk again with Nobuna-sama! If this goes on, Mount Hiei will...."

"Ohhhh!? A priestess from the evil sects of namban? But, these shockingly big breasts... Ahhhh, don't touch me, DON'T TOUCH ME! My power... My power will be sucked away!"

Somehow Gousei kept shouting, "Ohhhh, let me go, let me go!" and seems to dislike Frois a big deal. Sweat starts flowing down his face, this is totally an opposite effect.

Is that the end, just when Nobuna plans to give up...

"Oh hohohohoho! Nobuna-sama, you seem troubled, at such a time, please ask for this Seii Taishogun!"

The Seii Taishogun who everyone had forgotten her existence, Imagawa Yoshimoto elegantly appears wearing sandals commonly wore by mikos.

Nobuna stared at Yoshimoto with a face of impatience immediately.

"Huh? When did you change back to "warara"<sup>[1]</sup>? You are now a puppet to me, yet you still put on such airs!"

"Ararararara, since I've become the Seii Taishogun, using warara again is obvious! Actually, I should refer myself as "chin"<sup>[2]</sup>, but since I don't want to give Himiko-sama trouble, so I will have to endure with just "warara!"

"You are really messed up in your usage of keigo!"

"Yes, that's it! At such a time, we can only rely on Himiko-sama's decreee!" Yoshiharu slapped his own leg.

"At such a time, even if all we had is this Imagawa Yoshimoto, it's better than nothing!" Mitsuhide said while agreeing too.

Niwa Nagahide smiled and said, "As a missionary candidate, this is brilliant. 80 points."

"There's no helping it... though I'm not expecting much of it." Nobuna said.

"You guys can just wait here! I will use my godly negotiation skills to get the decree! Ohohohoho!"

Imagawa Yoshimoto believes firmly that she could complete the historic task of getting the royal decree herself.

## Part 5

Imperial Palace.

"What!? That Suruga's puppet shogun came to see Himiko without an appointment!?"

Early in the morning, Kampaku Konoe Sakihisa rushed over to the palace with rolling eyes as he just received the report.

What is shocking is, Konoe Sakihisa is the one who planned the whole thing of forcing the Oda clan into a corner.

The reason for Asai Hisamasa suddenly breaking off the alliance with the Oda clan was also because Sakihisa sent him a secret letter saying, "Oda Nobuna wants to destroy this world of statuses and had threatened that

she will destroy the palace and Himiko.", this exact letter was the start of the whole conspiracy.

And persuading Mount Hiei that had relations with the palace was of course him, using the same method.

As for the Rokoku and Miyoshi clans, they had both received, "The Oda army is currently trapped in Mount Hiei, now is the time to act!" letter.

But, he never would have thought that even Sugitani Zenjuubou failed his assassination attempt.

If that useless fellow had succeeded, the Oda clan would be totally destroyed by now! Now he has even disappeared, I, who had trusted that ninja was too dumb!

"No, definitely not. Though I don't know why Himiko-sama trusts that Oda Nobuna so much, but I must never let that Suruga puppet shogun and Himiko-sama meet....!"

Sakihisa rushed to the palace in a hurry, but it was too late.

"Ohhohohoho! If that's the case, please write the royal decree soon! As expected of Himiko-sama!"

This high-pitched laughter that seems to pierce the brain... is definitely not that of Himiko-sama's.

"Then, please take this royal decree over to my brother at Mount Hiei."

"Ahhh, even Himiko-sama had said so... I, Seii Taishogun Imagawa Yoshimoto am so honored!"

"I've heard that Nobuna is hurt, how is she now?"

"That fellow is already energetic now! Though she seems kinda confused after drinking so much medicine, and even had the idea of "burning Mount Hiei", but, ever since that monkey that she kept had returned to her from Kanegasaki, she returned back to herself!"

"I see, Sagara Yoshiharu is safe too."

"Yes yes. He is safe, I'm only telling you, Himiko-sama. That Saru is the only "real Japanese man" that I, Seii Taishogun acknowledge, how can he die so simply!? Ahahahahahaha!"



Konoe Sakihisa ran into the room while panting profusely.



The Imagawa Yoshimoto that he had once thought was just an elegant puppet is now wearing a dragon shaped accessory on her head as she fans herself with a golden fan.

Even if she is the Taishogun, to dress like that in front of Himiko, how disrespectful is this!

"Wa....Wait!"

"Ara ara, isn't this Kampaku-sama? Hmmm, white eyebrows with black teeth, what a noble look, or, were you born like this, Oh hohoho."

Sakihisa grinds his teeth with fury. This stupid Suruga woman believes that Taishogun is bigger than Kampaku, no, maybe she thinks the shogun holds the same level as Himiko-sama, so no matter what I say, she will definitely, "Ahahahaha" and not listen to any of it.

This is the most difficult missionary, that bastard Oda Nobuna!

With this, I can only persuade Himiko-sama to retract her order.

"Himiko-sama, if we contribute to the peace between the Asai Asakura clans and the Oda clan, it will mean demolishing the rule of prohibiting women at Mount Hiei! The impression of Mount Hiei which is in charge of protecting Kyoto's gate of demons will be totally gone!"

"What are you saying?"

Behind the veil, the young Himiko-sama muttered.

"Mount Hiei and Mount Koya's prohibiting women rule was established near 800 years ago during the Heijou-kyo era. It's a tradition that has 800 years of history. If we destroy such a tradition, it means we are destroying the authority of Yamato Gose and Himiko-sama."

"Spiritual mountain's prohibiting women rule came from Heijou-kyo's Yoro code, and it's never set to discriminate against females but to let the monks observe their tonsure..." Sakihisa continued.

"In the Yoro code, there isn't just prohibiting women, but they are prohibiting men too, but now what's left is just prohibiting women, isn't that very strange?"

Sakihisa "Ahh, Ahh, that..." and started shivering...

800 years ago when the yoro code was established, the Buddhism community in Japan had both monastery and nunneries. And there was a strict rule "Monks and nuns are to swear an oath of chastity.", and so Yamato Gose who ruled Japan established the rule for females to not enter monasteries, and males to not enter nunneries.

But this country's nunneries slowly disappeared due to the changing of eras, and the rule on prohibiting men was also forgotten by everyone.

But the rule of prohibiting women was combined with the beliefs of the spiritual mountain before Buddhism came in and the reason for establishing the rule was forgotten and slowly passed down.

"D..Do...Don't tell me, the young Himiko-sama even knows such an ancient story...?"

Sakihisa still didn't admit defeat and struggled, "But the point about women being unclean was acknowledged from the start." and tried to retaliate but Himiko smiled and retorted.

"I see, if being a woman makes them unable to enter Mount Hiei... Then I too am unclean and can't enter Mount Hiei?"

"Huh? Nn...no...No such thing! Those fellows who dare say the esteemed Himiko-sama is unclean will definitely receive divine punishment!"

"If that's the case, the rule of prohibiting women is just an outdated thing, right?"

"....L...Like you said~!"

Sakihisa broke out in sweat and stood there trembling.

"It's about time for the era of prohibiting women entering spiritual mountains to end. Women were not born with sins, isn't it?"

"What wisdom, I can't retaliate at all!"

Sakihisa finally gave up resisting.

"Ohhohohoho! You have nothing more to say, Kampaku-sama? Then let me, Ima~Gawa~Yoshi~moto go to Mount Hiei's main hall in place of Himiko-sama for the peace negotiation!"

Interrupting Imagawa Yoshimoto's high-pitched laughter, Himiko said.

"I hope you can pass a message to Nobuna-sama: There isn't just one dream. I hope you can cherish Sagara Yoshiharu."

"Ehh, Ehh, though I don't really understand the meaning of this, but, I understand."

At this time.

"Oda Nobuna, you once again sneaked through the crisis... Just you wait, I will gather stronger enemies to deal with you." Konoe Sakihisa's mind have already started on a new plan, the evil expression on his face was not discovered by Himiko due to the veil. Maybe, the officials set the veil up for this purpose.

## Part 6

December 13th.

The season is still winter.

At the mountain path covered with snow, energetic female warriors appeared, intent on destroying the 800 years old rule of prohibiting females.

"What a breathtaking view! Though it's kinda cold, but this scene makes the mountain climbing worth it!"

"The view of Kyoto from Mount Hiei, 95 points."

"Ohahahahaha! Are you satisfied, Nobuna-sama? Are you not going to reward me, who delivered the royal decree from Himiko? How about using gold for my Nijou castle?"

"Yoshimoto-sama Yoshimoto-sama, the battle with the Asai Asakura allied forces has not ended, your request is too unreasonable~"

"Arara, Motoyasu, if that's the case, I will have to settle with silver then."

"I thought it will turn into something bad..."

\*Sob\*Sob\*

With Oda Nobuna leading, the excited retainers formed the group.

At the almost total female group, there was only one male who mixed in, Sagara Yoshiharu.

"There! There are relatives of Saru right there! Your mates!"

"Shut up, those are Japanese monkeys."

As they were making a lot of noises, they finally reached the main hall.

The Asai Asakura soldiers that surrounded the main hall to protect their masters,

"Th...That is the princess of the Oda clan... Su...Such unparalleled beauty."

"Shibata Katsuie, and Niwa Nagahide, and Akechi Mitsuhide, anyone of them are rare beauties."

"Only that Saru is unforgivable! To be surrounded by beauties, arghhhh!"

"UNFORGIVABLE!"

"Sagara Yoshiharu! We must kill you on the battlefield!"

They can hear the whispers of the soldiers.

The monks that were disarmed by the decree were...

"W...What pretty female warriors!"

"Young, pretty and refined... Ahh, I can't seem to forgo the mundane affairs."

"No, maybe the mundane world is the real paradise."

"....I, have decided to quit being a monk."

"But there's a Saru mixed in, unforgivable."

"Die! Hurry and die! Sagara Yoshiharu!"

Admiring the pretty Oda clan warriors, but emitting obvious killing intent to Yoshiharu.

"Why am I the only one hated... Just why is that?"

"Hmph, let us go in, Saru."

Asai Hisamasa and Asakura Yoshikage had already pressed their seals on the agreement. Nobuna is the only one left.

But,

At the gates of the main hall, stood 2 persons.

Wakasa's shota omyouji, Tsuchimikado and "Uwahahaha, come at me!" Shougakuin Gousei who is waving his metal rod as he laughs.

"What, you two, we are here for the peace agreement, don't tell me you plan to ignore Himiko's decree and start the war again?"

"How can that be~ Asai-dono and Asakura-dono have already sealed their approval as per Himiko-dono's decree, I am just here to hand you Tsuchimikado as per the conditions. But... I don't mind handing him to you, but what do I do after handing over, I promised you nothing! Wahahahaha!"

"Exactly, I did not say anything about surrendering... but I plan to defeat you guys here." Tsuchimikado said arrogantly.

"I'm leaving this to you, Tsuchimikado-dono, don't worry and give these unclean women a bloodbath... Please!"

"What a bastard monk! Too despicable! And they were saying they aren't defying the decree!" The deceived Nobuna and the rest were fuming mad.

"Ahh, Mount Hiei is as remarkable as ever... This inexhaustible "Ki" that was gathered from Kyoto. After absorbing them, I'm 10 times stronger than when I was at Wakasa, no, it's 20 times! Where is Takenaka Hanbei?"

"Me." Hanbei raised her hand timidly as she rides her small horse and climbs the mountain.

"You are that rising dragon of Mount Bodai, being known as "The modern Koumei"? You are just a rural omyouji, come and duel it out with the direct descendant of Abe Seimei-sama. The head of Tsuchimikado!"

Yoshiharu and the rest shouted, "Despicable bastard~!" and were making a scene, Nobuna too angrily said, "What's with this kid?"

"The low level shikigamis that this fellow controls are afraid of the gunshots of arquebus, but no matter what, we can't let Hanbei meet with any danger." Yoshiharu whispered to Nobuna as the latter did not bring any arquebus due to signing the peace agreement.

Hanbei slowly got down from the horse, using a clear voice and said, "I understand, let's have a duel then."

"Huh, it's too dangerous, Hanbei-chan! That fellow can control huge amounts of shikigamis, and he should be much more dangerous now compared to when he was at Wakasa."

"Yoshiharu-sama, it's okay now. Due to you, my body has recuperated, now is the time to help out for the period of my collapse at Kiyomizu temple."

Hanbei lowered her head with a difficult expression.

"But, Hanbei-chan."

"Hoo, there's really nothing to worry."

"Then, rising dragon-kun, we can start the duel now?"

"Shikigami army, summon!"

Tsuchimikado shouted confidently, in an instant, countless scary shikigamis appeared in the sky and rushed towards Hanbei, Nobuna and the rest.

"There they are, there they are! The demons have appeared! Noooooo!" Katsuie starts swinging her spear like in a fight, yet it could not reach the flying shikigamis.

If this goes on, Nobuna and the rest will all be dead at this peace agreement ceremony.

But at this moment,

Takenaka Hanbei drew out a talisman without hurry, and threw it up into the air.

"Zenki-sama, I'll leave this to you."

"Ahh, leave this to me."

The gentleman with a fox face, Zenki appeared in front of Tsuchimikado.

"What, this shikigami again? Though you did deceive me at Mizusaka Ridge."

"Hoo, how can Sagara Yoshiharu be defeated by a guy like you, it's the deceived fellow that was dumb."



"No matter what, this is just too reckless. Even if you are a high level shikigami, just one of you can never be the opponent of my shikigami army. You, yourself should know. Each individual shikigami's strength is now 20 times more, then it will become a numbers game. Just one of you is so boring, I can't even win with pride."

With Zenki as the target, all the shikigamis rush forwards in an instant.

Suddenly, Zenki laughed out loud.

"You didn't notice? My master's body condition is good, and we are at Mount Hiei, my strength is 1000 times more than the time at Wakasa."

"Stop boasting, it's impossible for any omyouji other than Abe Seimei-sama to be stronger than me. How can a stupid thing summoned by a rural omyouji be my opponent?"

"Ehhh, even the Tsuchimikado clan's descendant had become outdated. All of them are useless descendants."

Facing the shikigami army coming from all directions.

Zenki said quietly.

"Pathetic spirits that had even forgotten how you look like when you are alive. Go back to the darkness."

Rin~Byou~Tou~Sha~Kai~Jin~Retsu~Zai~Zen!

Come, thousands arms Guanyin.

Pointing to the heavens, chanting spells.

Countless punches that only the omyoujis and shikigamis can see fall from the sky,

\*Bham\*

\*Boom\*

\*Kachak\*

Not a single one was left, the whole shikigami army was destroyed in a blink of an eye.

The battle of the strongest omyouji, was over in an instant.

"....What...? Such a thing... Im...Impossible...!?"

Tsuchimikado was stunned as he falls on his feet.

"How is this possible!? The direct descendant of Abe Seimei-sama, the head of Tsuchimikado, Japan's strongest onmyouji, how... how can I lose so simply..."

"Hoo, the Abe clan that absorbs the power of a fox had declined over the course of a few hundred years. Tsuchimikado, the era of onmyoujis have passed through the dark ages of Japan. My master and I will personally end this onmyouji era.

Tsuchimikado who was glanced at by Zenki suddenly had a big change of expression.

The confident look and the tenacity after being defeated had vanished suddenly.

The face of Tsuchimikado is full of fear now.

This is impossible.

Such a thing... is definitely impossible!

For the reason why...

The rumors that were passed down through the ages of Tsuchimikado clan, no matter how high your talent is, the strongest shikigami that no one can summon out, his real form is...

"...Don't tell me... Don't tell me... You... are... Founder...-sama!?"

"So troubling..." Zenki laughed like a fox.

"Tsuchimikado, you still have a long way ahead. To proclaim yourself as the descendant of Abe Seimei, you are still 10 years too early. Go back to Wakasa and train from the start again."

"Uwagh...Uwaghhhhhhhhhh! I'm so sorry!!!"

Tsuchimikado who was so afraid that he was reduced back to a child as he cried and tumbled down the mountain.

During the period when he was running, Zenki controlled invisible hands and kept knocking at Tsuchimikado's head, making his nose bleed as he

kept tumbling down the mountain and soon vanished from Nobuna and the rest's sight.

"....Ara ara, I was planning to take your life, thank my master's kindness."

"Thank you so much, Zenki-sama! With this, Tsuchimikado won't dare to attack Yoshiharu-sama anymore."

"Hmmm, Hanbei-dono, you are really a good child."

Nobuna and the rest were, "What happened? "Did Zenki do something? I see nothing at all." stunned where they stood, and Zenki vanished into a puff of smoke after that.

"This... Impossible! Why did Tsuchimikado lose to this hamster-like lass!?"

Gousei whose last bit of defiance had failed, was slowly surrounded by Nobuna and the rest.

"Uwahhhh! Is the main hall fated to never escape the taint of these unclean women!? Despair! Guanyin, please do punish these unclean women right now! I beg you, I'm begging you, if you hear my wish, please save this monk from the evil claws of these women!"

Gousei who felt that his life is in danger dropped his metal rod on the group and starts shouting while shivering his big body, he even cried out.

Gousei who was actually quite cowardly became a fish on the chopping board for Nobuna and her female warriors.

The fury in the eyes of Nobuna and the rest was burning bigger and bigger.

Especially the one who Gousei attacked and thus dueled, everytime she was winning, he ran away into Mount Hiei. Katsuie was even starting to grind her teeth in anger.

Enveloped by the killing intent of these female warriors, Gousei coughed and said in a hurry.

"\*Cough\*. If that's the case, I'm going off now."

He was trying to run away despicably as he stood up.

\*Pak!!\*

"Uwahhhh!?"

Nobuna's flying kick hit its' target. On Gousei's abdomen... The ends of her feet digging itself into the space near the liver.

"Who are the women deserving punishment!? Where are we unclean, say it out, you bastard monk!"

"Exactly! The one that is unclean is you who plans to assassinate us during the peace agreement ceremony! You still think yourself as Mount Hiei's monk after defying Himiko-sama's decree!? Do you know the word "shame"!?"

\*Bham!\*

The shining forehead of the furious Juubei Mitsuhide sent a kick right at Gousei's crotch without any mercy.

"Ohhhhhhhh!?"

Gousei could not withstand such childless inducing impact and starts rolling on the ground with pain.

"Sp...Spare me! I know my mistake! Strong women aren't unclean, I won't say that again! Please spare my life!"

"Do you think we will let you run away!?"

"Everyone, how about we treat this fellow as a sandbag, beat him up till he stops twitching!"

"Ohohohoho! Compared to shooting arrows, I'm much better in soccer!"

"Though this might not be an appropriate action for a conqueror of the world, but my mood now is full points!"

"Understood, Hime-sama! Eat this, Shibata special, Face Stomp!"

UWAHHHHHHH!

Using all her strength, Katsue starts sending a crazy amount of stomps mercilessly at the lying down Gousei.

"Ehhh, so they are this violent!? Sa...Save me, Yoshiharu-sama!"

Nobuna's kick is already fatal, and Juubei's kick to the weak spot of any man without hesitation is enough to make anyone who sees it cringe....

But, compared to them, Katsuie's stomping is... No matter what, it's too over, right? Looking at Gousei's pathetic state, Yoshiharu can't help but shiver with fear too.

The monks and soldiers of Asai Asakura clans were saying, "Even that Gousei can't fight back, huh...." "Now, Gousei-sama seems unexpectedly unworthy of pity." "Somehow, it seems oddly satisfying." "He lost everytime he dueled with Shibata Katsuie." "To think that women are weak, what a big mistake..." "It's better if we leave the women alone." as they stood there shivering while looking at Gousei being beaten up.

"Hanbei-chan, Hanbei-chan, please go and stop them."

"But...It's scary... \*Sob\*Sob\*"

"Hoo, the esteemed monk Ikyu-sama once said, "Women are the treasure of Buddhism, because Sakyamuni and Siddhattha were both born from women, so guys who used unreasonable reasons like prohibiting women from entering will never win against us."

Matsunaga Hisahide does not have any intention to stop them too.

Yoshiharu himself, did not have the courage to stop Nobuna and the rest who had been amassing lots of fury ever since the Retreat at Kanegasaki.

But, someone courageously stepped forward.

"No...Nobuna-sama! Violence isn't good! If you continue on, Gousei-sama is just too pitiful."

This courageous girl used her own body and shielded the badly beaten up Gousei, trying her best to stop the violence of Nobuna and her gang.

And this girl is...

"....Frois? This fellow is the monk who had always been harming you missionaries. He is your enemy, isn't it? Why are you stopping us?"

Christian missionary Frois.

"Nobuna-sama, Jesus-sama once taught us, "To love your enemy." Gousei-sama had already admitted his mistake to you, and had thoroughly repented... Though it's a fact that we missionaries did indeed have lots of trouble, but, I'm afraid that Gousei-sama had suffered lots of cruel training

and had severe misunderstandings with females. So I beg you, please be merciful."

"Well, since you said so... What about you guys?"

"If that's the case, Mitsuhide too will forgive him."

"Thanks."

Frois helped Gousei up and revealed a light smile.

Gousei who was under the support of Frois's shoulder and finally being able to straighten his upper body....

"Bu....Buddha-sama....!"

Uwaih, He started crying as he hugs Frois's legs.

"You don't give up even on a useless guy like me, you are the real Guanyin-sama! Thank you so much! Thank you so much...! Why, the Guanyin-sama who helps all mortals will descent on this world as a namban girl!?"

"....Eh? Ummm...?"

"I heard Guanyin-sama had 33 forms, maybe this namban missionary form is your 34th form!? Ohh, ohh, what glittering blonde hair... That sparkling blue eyes... What an appropriate appearance for Guanyin-sama! And, those big breasts that are full of motherly instinct! The mother I have never met must definitely be like you!"

"....Eh? Ehhh?"

"From now on, Shougakuin Gousei will forever serve you, and become Musashibo that protects Frois-sama! Yes... As long as I have one breath left...! Ahh, Guanyin-samaaaaa!"

Gousei screams as he continued to rub his face fiercely on Frois's legs.

The monks who were utterly disappointed by his ridiculous actions all droop their heads and slowly disperse...

"Wait, plea... please stop! I...I'm a sister that have already married God... Who... Who can come save me!?"

"What the hell are you doing, you lecher monk! Get the hell away from Frois!"

"He is becoming more and more disgusting! We should just kill him off!"

"Ara ara, though a troublesome enemy has become our ally... , I'm afraid it will become even more troublesome... A situation of 50 points."

"I can still continue on? Ok! Eat this!"

## Part 7

Finally,

Nobuna took the last step towards the peace agreement.

They had finally come back from the desperate situation.

They did not see the cowardly Asai Hisamasa during the peace agreement ceremony, he must have ran away before Nobuna had even stepped into the main hall.

And the other person, Asakura Yoshikage.

After walking out from the main hall, he finally saw Oda Nobuna herself for the first time.

Asakura Yoshikage is a young warrior that has the looks and build.

But, his face is always drooping while his eyes seem to swim around unfocused.

And the most abnormal thing was at the back of Yoshikage now.

A piece of wall within the main hall was all drawn with pretty girls from the tales of Genji.

At the middle of all the drawings stood the well-dressed Nobuna as she fiddles around.

"....This!? Asakura Yoshikage, was this drawn by you!? Is this really okay, to draw such things at such a holy place?"

"A life of guarding a castle is just too boring, so I called Hasegawa Tohaku over from Echizen to draw this. Ho, ho, ho, but you are even prettier than the drawings, the exact princess I dreamed of. Finally, I have found a

beautiful and flawless girl like my mother... You're too beautiful, so beautiful that I want to pull all your organs out and put them as specimens on my side!"

Asakura Yoshikage did research on Oda Nobuna when he was guarding and seems to have crazily fallen in love with Nobuna.

".....!?"

Nobuna shivered silently.

What?

What's going on with this guy?

Like his mother? ....Specimen...?

What is he talking about?

"Finally, I have found the girl I wanted in the real world. I must use all means to bring you back to Ichijodani. Then, I will dress you in different elegant attires... and cultivate you to become my Murasaki. Feel honored, this is both of our destiny!"

"Don't come over!"

Asakura Yoshikage whose eyes starts to glitter with a crazy look raised his hands like he wanted to catch Nobuna, but the shivering Nobuna reflexively hid behind Yoshiharu.

For Nobuna that had not known what fear is like, to fear a person to this extent, this was really the first time.

And Asakura Yoshikage who was leering at Nobuna, his expression is definitely not normal.

It's not the eyes of a guy liking a girl, but it is like being controlled by some ideas. The eyes that's full of darkness and with a threatening atmosphere.

"Saru, this guy is making me so uncomfortable! Why did he draw me like that even when we didn't meet before? And saying he wants to make me into a specimen, though I don't know what is going on, I'm so scared... so scared..."

"Calm down Nobuna, there are such guys no matter at which era, there is no need to be scared."



The Yoshiharu who hugs Nobuna like he is giving her strength stared back at Asakura Yoshikage fiercely.

"You must be Saru! Boring, so boring! There are things like that happening frequently in the real world. I had thought I found the perfect bishoujo, but there are always worms like you who are just quick... When I was thinking about girls frivolously, monkeys like you were destroying the maidens, unforgivable!"

Asakura Yoshikage shouted with a voice full of hatred.

"Sagara Yoshiharu, I hereby swear to definitely kill you on the battleground! An art of miracle like Oda Nobuna will never be tainted by a worm like you! No matter what price I pay, I must definitely bring her and imprison her back in my residence and help her change her clothes. To cultivate her into a Murasaki that belongs only to me, only Oda Nobuna can be the girl who is my mother!"

"Saru, hug me tightly... I'm so scared...." Nobuna hugged Yoshiharu even tighter due to fear, and Asakura Yoshikage who saw such a scene was even madder.

"Let's meet again on the battlefield, Oda Nobuna. It's regrettable but it's not the Heian era now. To be able to imprison you back at Ichijodani to cherish you, though I do not want to enter dirty battles but just you wait. I will definitely destroy the Oda army, kill this shameless Saru and claim your love."

Crazy, this guy is crazy.

It's not just unreasonable, he seems to be raping her with his eyes, making people shiver with fright.

Too disgusting.

"....Saru... Too scary... To be caught by such a guy and imprisoned... I would rather die..."

"Don't be afraid, if we battle with Asakura Yoshikage, you will definitely win!"

Hugging Nobuna tightly, Yoshiharu said so.

A tear stricken Nobuna raised her head as she faced Yoshiharu.

"Really? Is this your future knowledge? Didn't we agree, you don't want your head anymore?"

"No, it's not my future knowledge. That maniac who is engrossed with his own world will never be the Oda clan's opponent. How can we lose to such a maniac, isn't it!?"

"Yes, it's like that." Nobuna finally smiled.

But Yoshiharu thought, "Though Asakura Yoshikage is a pervert, he may unexpectedly be a strong enemy." and started to be on guard.

Postponing the battle with Asakura and Yoshikage, Nobuna had finally gone through her biggest crisis.

The Miyoshi and Rokoku clans knew that they couldn't stand up against the Oda clan and once again backed down.

After that, though Takenaka Hanbei did trip and fall onto the "Holy Flame" when she ran into the main hall causing the whole hall to go up in flames. Zenki who was summoned again summoned a big rain and the Holy Flame that had not been extinguished for 800 years was put out completely. But Gousei who was already the slave of Frois did not mind it at all. Only the monks at Mount Hiei were crying in anguish.

With this, Nobuna herself can finally return to Kyoto.

The wound on her abdomen is no longer hurting that much.

"It's...It's about time to give Saru his reward....."

"Hmmm? Why is your face red?" Yoshiharu said that to her. Nobuna started stuttering.

"Hu...Hurry and go back to Nene's side. That child, has been cleansing herself to pray for your safety."

"Ohh, It's true that I should go back soon!" Yoshiharu answered.

"I've stayed in the army all this time since I was back from Kanegasaki! If I don't return to calm Nene down, things will be bad."

"Wait, Saru. Though it's true that many things have happened, don't tell me you've forgotten about the promise of a kiss with me?"

Thinking this, Nobuna suddenly became unhappy.

After Yoshiharu shouted, "Wait for me, Nene!" and ran off, the smiling Niwa Nagahide walked to Nobuna's side.

"...Hmm, the night when we go back to Kyoto, ask Yoshiharu-dono to your room, and then, give him his reward properly."

"Is that really ok? Aren't you guys against me being together with Saru?"

"No, Nagahide will not make such a dumb mistake a second time. From now on, I will fully support the love between Hime and Yoshiharu-dono."

"Support.... Manchiyo, are you misunderstanding something? I...I...I... am just giving Sa...Sa...Saru a reward as his Ma...Ma...Ma...Ma...Master... T...Th...Th...This is just purely a duty... duty...!"

Nagahide held the hands of Nobuna who was panicking around and saying meaningless things like usual and reveals a smile that accepted everything.

"....Hime, there is no need to worry so much anymore. Just be the conqueror of the world like this. This path is a hard path, so, even if Hime is a little willful, you must grab your own happiness. I will support you silently at the back, till Hime has fulfilled all her wishes."

Nobuna said, "Well... Since you said so....", and still wasn't honest.

If she continues to look at Nagahide's gentle smile, she might really cry out.

But, now isn't the time to act tough... Though I'm sorry for Manchiyo... but once we return to Kyoto, I must give Saru his reward, using my first kiss.

Though it's just a little, Nobuna was finally able to become honest

## Part 8

"Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama!  
Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama!  
Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama! Onii-sama!  
Onii-sama! Onii-sama~! Nene is finally, finally able to see you back home safely!"



## Kyoto, Myoukaku Temple

At the temple that Yoshiharu stayed temporarily, Yoshiharu revealed a troubled smile after being tightly hugged by Nene.

So noisy and irritating, wetting her bed during the night, and coming over to disturb me when I am flirting with girls, and being better than her brother in maths, honestly, a dislikeable sister...

But, as expected...

Nene this brat, is just too cute!

The big eyes that were swollen from crying and the small nose that was still trembling with snot... Ahhh, damn!

Damn it, even I can't hold back the tears, these happy tears.

I, who was trapped in the sengoku era finally had a family.

Ahhhh! It's so good to be alive! It's so good to not die on the battlefield!

Yoshiharu, who almost died at the "Retreat of Kanegasaki" was finally able to experience the warmth of his family from Nene who had been waiting for him all this while.

Just that Yoshiharu actually did not have a sister, yet he was shouting, "So cute, so cute." and did not exactly know what to do.

"Uhhh, what should I do at such a time, I have totally no idea!"

First, I should try touching her hair...

Ohhh! An expression that's of a little annoyed yet full of happiness. She's just so cute.

"Hey, what's going on Onii-sama, you are kinda different from normal."

"Ahhh, don't mind me don't mind me, it's just purely an expression of love between family members."

"But when you were at Kanegasaki, didn't Onii-sama just think about Hime-sama, and had forgotten all about Nene?"

"Nono, when I was almost dead, all I could think of was Nene. The reason I can come back alive is all due to Nene!"

"....Ehh!? Did you eat something bad, Onii-sama!?"

"It's so good that Nene's here.... It's so good that Nene's here.... Though I feel like I had forgotten something very important, but no matter what, I will celebrate tonight together with Nene." Yoshiharu thought.

"Ahh, Onii-sama, did you buy any Echizen souvenirs for me?"

Nene who was sitting at Yoshiharu's lap "Souvenir! Souvenir!" and started to become noisy.

Ahh... To have a family waiting for you when you come back is just so good... I should thank Nobuna who gave me Nene as my sister.

"I did not have time for souvenirs at Echizen, but I did buy lots of souvenirs and dried tofu strips from Mount Hiei! Come and test them!"

"Ohh! What are tofu strips, Onii-sama?"

"It's a specialty that monks eat. A thing that was hardened from tofu."

"Ohhh, specialty... It's different from tofu?"

"It's different from tofu. It's more flexible, kinda like noodles."

"I understand! Hurry and throw tofu and these tofu strips into Hatcho Miso soup!"

Nene hastily started a fire under a pot and took out a bottle of Miso.

Yoshiharu stopped her frantically.

"No miso allowed. If you put them in, won't it be Nagoya flavored?"

"Hmmm? If I don't put miso in, it will become tasteless, can that be eaten?"

"Please, Nene. Try to cook something other than Nagoya flavored."

"NO! There must be miso~! If you say something bad about miso again, I will cry right now!"

"Damn it... Damn it~! Sisters are just so troublesome!"

Nene who acted like she is running away as she holds the bottle and Yoshiharu who shouted, "At least, not the tofu strips." and chased Nene, the both of them started playing happily in the room!

"Gotcha!"

"Ahhhh! Onii-sama, lemme go!"

"No can do! Just the miso isn't allowed! \*tickle\*tickle\* Eat this!"

"Ahahahahaha! If that's the case, I will use these "Kick of Surekill to Man" from Akechi!"

Uhhhh.

"Uwahhhh!? ... Don't suddenly kick at my weak point!"

"Ohhh? Onii-sama really collapsed? What should I do?"

"That's why, don't become a girl like Juubei-chan. Uhhhhh, it hurts, Sa...Save me!"

"Ahh, Onii-sama? Get a hold of yourself, don't die!"

\*Thump\*Thump\*

\*Thump\*Thump\*

Nene sat on the tummy of Yoshiharu who was rolling around the tatami due to the pain.

"Is it here, does it hurt here? Let Nene help you stop the pain!"

"Stop, hurry and stop. It will become much worse with all kinds of meanings, so don't touch there! Don't press on it, ouch!"

"If that's the case, how about this!?"

"Don't rub! Don't take off my pants! We will be misunderstood!"

"If I don't take them off, how do I know the condition of the wound!?"

"No! Damn it, it's the worst if sisters are your opponent!"

But, no matter what Nene does tonight, Yoshiharu can smile back at her.

"Yoshiharu-sama... Umm... I had the report from Goemon-sama, but, what bad things have you been doing from the start?"

"....It's just Me and Nene playing too much... \*Shy\*"

Goemon who was at Takenaka island trying to save the imprisoned Asai Nagamasa and Tsuda Nobusumi sent back a report. Holding that report, Hanbei and Inuchiyo came to visit Yoshiharu.

But somehow, Yoshiharu was very happily "playing" with Nene who always had quite a "weird" relationship.

Anyway, why is Nene rubbing Yoshiharu's crotch!?

"Yoshiharu-sama!? Don't tell me... The perverted you had finally raised your hands onto the still young Nene!?"

"....Different from Gousei, a real women's enemy. Let this justice, Inu-sama give divine punishment!"

"Eh? Wrong, it's a misunderstanding! Nothing happened, I did nothing!"

Inuchiyo and Hanbei push away Nene who had been riding on Yoshiharu's body.

"What are you guys doing!? Nene is just playing with Onii-sama!"

"Don't be fooled, Nene-sama! Yoshiharu too, if you lust after girls' bodies so much... Then... I... I... Um... Though I'm much older than Nene-sama, but our body size is very similar...."

"Hanbei-chan, I said it's a misunderstanding! Why did you start to strip!?"

"....Gosh... If we don't drag Yoshiharu back to the real world, he will become a useless person forever liking small girls... Inuchiyo will help too."

"Why did you suddenly hug me, Inuchiyo? Anyway, aren't you a loli too!? From my point of view, both you and Nene are of the same type!"

"....\*Piak\* Inuchiyo... isn't a small girl... In terms of age.... Is a shoujo"

"It seems that there was a scary illness in Yoshiharu-sama's country that is called "Lolicon", an illness that makes the person only love small girls. I think Yoshiharu-sama definitely had an attack from "lolicon"!

Th...Tho...Though I'm so embarrassed, but, before it's too late, we will treat you!"

"I beg you, Hanbei-chan, calm down and listen to me! I'm not having an attack from "lolicon". But if Hanbei-chan and Inuchiyo-chan keep exciting me like this, I might really become a lolicon!"



"Ohhh... Is it a "game" to strip naked with Onii-sama? It seems interesting, Nene wants in too!"

"Noooo! Nene-sama!"

"...Yoshiharu is really bad, to train Nene to such an extent...."

"Don't say such strange words, Inuchiyo! Oi, don't strip anymore!!"

A chaotic scene...

Yoshiharu was starved for air under the bodies of three half naked girls.

"Oh ya, I remembered!"

I hadn't gotten the promised kiss from Nobuna, I've finally remembered it.

I...I...It's not like I want to k...ki...kis...kiss Nobuna or something, but, but if I don't get the reward quickly, that petty woman might regret and find an excuse to reject it, it will definitely be so!

"Ohhhhhh! No matter what, I must find Nobuna!"

Energy full, spirit is more than full!

Yoshiharu climbed out in an instant from these pillows made by girls.

"Ahhh..."

"Ohh, Onii-sama is fired up!"

"...What shocking determination."

"I'm sorry but I have to go out."

Yoshiharu said and rushed out with an Olympic runner champion speed.

"I...I...I...It's not like I like Nobuna or something!! I...I...I... I just want to fix that petty woman's bad habit of always regretting the rewards promised to her retainers! Yes, those retainers who were denied the reward will definitely be angry, and might revolt at any moment! It's a responsibility of me as a retainer to prevent that!!"

Running ahead...

Running on a street under a moon lit sky.

"Nobuna should be at Honnou temple now. I had visited there during my school trip to Kyoto, but that Honou temple was different from the one Nobuna is staying. It's the new Honou temple that was built on another location after the Honou temple was burned down during "Incident at Hounouji" So this Hounou temple of the sengoku era, yes, it should be at the side of Myoukaku Temple that I was staying...."

Ahhh...

This is Kyoto.

It's different from the modernized city full of public streets that he had seen during his school trip.

Straight dirt paths.

I'm using my own legs to run in Kyoto of the sengoku era.

Yoshiharu is so excited that he almost let out a sound.

Nobuna...

You, the attack at Okehazama, the siege of Inabayama castle, heading towards the capital, and your life's greatest crisis, the Retreat at Kanegasaki, you have survived through it all.

In the history that I learned from the sengoku games, Oda Nobunaga will fall into the "Entrapment of Oda" by the shogun Ashikaga Yoshiaki.

But this world's shogun is Imagawa Yoshimoto that you spared, and after coming to Kyoto, she had been engrossed with soccer and playing around. She can't even thank you enough, so plotting a revolt is impossible.

If that's the case, who is the mastermind planning a revolt? If it's really "Even if the method is different, the flow of history won't change", then there will definitely be someone secretly plotting the "Entrapment of Oda"....!

The historic knowledge I have from the games and this world started to split, and I will become more and more useless from now on.

The guarding strategy during Kanegasaki had also failed.

Maybe some time in the future, no, very soon, I won't be of help to you.

But, even so,

Definitely...

Only that "Incident at Honouji", I must definitely stop it.

Juubei-chan who admires you so much should be impossible to revolt against you.

Hanbei had once said, "The strength to return history to it's path", if it really exist, then there might be someone else replacing Juubei-chan and launch the "Incident at Honouji", that person may be among the retainers now.

Or maybe, it's someone that I have not seen before.

No idea how it will happen

Though I have no idea how, I will definitely protect you.

The future where you did not die at Honou temple, the other future that I was not born in, no matter what, I want to see it.

I must have come to this sengoku era due to this reason.

A thing like being delayed by the Mori clan and won't be in time to stop the "Incident at Honouji", I definitely don't want it to happen.

Though I'm just a useless high school student compared to Tokichirou-jii-san, but I will surpass him in just this. No, I must surpass him!

Even if... to replace you and burned to ashes there... I'm willing to...

....

....

....

## Part 9

Finally here

Honou temple at night.

It's almost like a fortress.

Drains outside it, the walls are as high as one could see, and an epic-ness that makes people exclaim, "Is this a temple within a city!?"

So this is it, a place most suitable for Nobuna to stay.

"Oh! Guards! It's been tough on you! Please pass a message saying, Sagara Yoshiharu is here to collect the promised reward!"

"Sagara-sama, please wait."

"....Eh?"

The gates were opened immediately, and the servants brought Yoshiharu inside.

"It's here, Hime is waiting for you inside."

At a room inside the castle, Yoshiharu can't help but swallow his saliva.

Thanks.

"Ah...Ehhh? I came in so simply... Nobuna, did you say that the reward is cancelled? Oioi, just what is going on here...?"

Suddenly he became excited. Gastric, dry throat all attacked him as his heart was thumping like it was almost going to explode. Yoshiharu almost said, "I think I should go back." such pathetic words.

"No, nonononono, this was the actions of my petty master! And, it's just a k...k...ki...kiss! I won't do anything more than it! B...Bu...But, there isn't anyone around... What the hell am I talking about!? UWAHHHHH~!"

Using trembling hands, he pushed open the doors violently.

There was someone in the room.

A girl sitting in seiza.

Wearing a white robe... Shibata Katsuie.

"Uhhh, Uhhhhhhh...."

With an expression almost close to tears, Katsuie shivered on the spot.

"Ehh, why is it you, Katsuie!?"

"No, no, no, umm, didn't I promise you before, if you came back alive, I will let you touch my breasts all you want? .....Uwahhhh! I... I said that thinking that you will definitely die, who would have thought, you really came back alive...! So, to fulfill that promise, I have made up my mind!"

"H...Huh? I had forgotten all about that promise which was said so simply! Rather than this, where is Nobuna?"

"Uwahh, Uwahh, uwahhhhhh... C...Come! Touch them! Don't be merciful and touch all you want! \*Sob\*... I'm about to be dirtied... \*Sob\*Sob\*Sob\* Ahh... Save me... Mother....!"

"Don't be like this, I said I have something on with Nobuna... And since you hate this to the point of crying, it's all right if I don't touch it, okay? It is I who wants to cry due to being hurt by you like this!"

"Sa...Sa...Samurais do not go back on their word! Do you want me to commit seppuku, Saru!? Just how much of a bastard are you....!"

"....If I don't touch it... You will commit seppuku?"

"I...Is...Isn't that obvious!? If I abandon the promise exchanged using our lives in the battlefield, I...I...I can't be called a samurai! Doesn't that mean I can only commit seppuku!? B...Bu...B...But to be touched by a Saru like you, ahh, maybe seppuku is better... N...Nooooo!"

"....If I touch it, you will let me go meet Nobuna?"

"Sob...Sobsob... Ahh, I got it! I will let you see her! So hurry and touch them, hurry and get this over with!"

Uhh...

I had totally forgotten all about the promise made before the Retreat at Kanegasaki at that hellish battlefield, but, there's no other choice, right...?

To attack Nobuna after coming to Honou temple, I must first break through Katsuie.

"Well, my rewards with Nobuna was rejected a countless amount of times. So, it should be ok for me to accept such an extra reward, right?"

Yoshiharu's arrogant mind starts acting up again.

"Cough... Well... There's no helping it then. Since you say you will commit seppuku if I don't touch it, so I can only touch them. It's only natural to help each others out."

"Uhhh, Uhhh... So you are really touching!?"

"No, though I'm ok with anything, but if the Oda clan's strongest were to commit seppuku, we will all be troubled."

"Sob... Mama... Uhhhhhh... Enough, come and touch them!"

"Somehow, it feels like I'm doing something really bad..." Yoshiharu sat in seiza in front of Katsuie.

And then, he timidly raised both hands.

At the front of his hands, two proud melon shaped breasts are waiting.

"\*Swallow saliva\* As an extra reward, this is the best, I...I'm digging in."

Not knowing why, he used keigo.

Yoshiharu spread his fingers, and slowly touched the universe's best paradise...

\*Boin\*

"W...What softness...!?"

"Uwahhh, Uwahhhhhh... Ehh, you really touched them, you bastard Saru!"

"....So...So...SO... SO GOOD....!"

Like the mood of the pilot of Apollo first landing onto the moon, now, the history of humans had a fundamental change!

Even if Katsuie beats me into a pulp right after this, I had no more regrets.

"Ju.... Just a bit more nail into it... what will happen...?"

\*Rub\*

"Ehhhhhh, Uhh, Uwahhhh, my breasts were really touched by Saru...! No longer... I can no longer be married!"

"Th...Th...Th...This....! Full of bounciness, my fingers inside the breasts were bounced out!? Why is this, Katsuie, why did you have such embarrassing weapons!?"

\*Rub\*Rub\*Pinch\*

Uwahh, it's the best. Even if it's through the robe, I can really feel the size of it... the softness...

"Ohhhh!? You gotta be joking, this... this is the real feeling of tits!? As expected of a girl! I...I'm so glad to be alive, my tears just can't stop!"

"Sa...Saru! Ah... Noo! To rub like this... It's no good to rub like this! Ow... it hurts!"

"Ahh, S...s...s...sorry, I was excited before knowing it...! Woah, my han... hands were sucked in, I can't take them away! What is this, what is going on!?"

"I...I'm gonna be broken. It's still my first time, be more gentle, baka!"

"This is the universe's greatest treasure that us, humans had asked for all these years!"

"D...Do...Do....Don't say such meaningless words! There should be something else, something else you should say to a girl at this sort of timing."

"S...So...Sor...Sorry Katsuie, my intelligence was reduced due to being over excited...! Wh...What comfortable feeling... That Gousei who had been ignoring all this while was a big idiot! Breasts SAIKOU!"

"Uhhhh! I'm so embarrassed, too embarrassed, hurry and let this end!"

Just when the two of them had entered a state where they don't know what is happening around them...

\*Kacha\*

The door was suddenly dragged open, a white robe attire same as Katsuie Nobuna was slowly entering the room, a step at a time.

"...Hi...Hime-sama!?"

"Eh!? Nobuna!?"

...

...

...

At this short period, Yoshiharu experienced a quietness that seemed almost like that of the moon surface.

As if wearing a noh mask, the expressionless Nobuna stood there for a long period of time, and finally opened her mouth to speak.

"...Hoo... So it's like this, compared to kissing with me, Katsuie's big breasts are better. I say. So it's like this, compared to my lips, you like Riku's breasts that are filled with fat. You from the future monkey kingdom have said before, in the monkey country of the future, big breasts like Riku's are very, very popular, I see I see... Huh... Though I had all sorts of delusions for what was going to happen tonight, but, a situation like this, I had totally not thought of it... Saru totally forgetting the promise with me and ran over to Riku to have a rendezvous, and having such a lewd face when rubbing Riku's breasts..."

"Um... Nobuna?"

"No...It's not like this, Hime-sama! This is definitely not a rendezvous, it's just a promise made at Kanegasaki... Uhh... uhhhhh....!"





"Shut up! Riku! Well done, how dare you feed the monkey that I<sup>[3]</sup> keep."

"Uhh..Uhhhh, Hime-sama is really angry...! I, who can't be married anymore after being played by Saru, I have even lost the love of Hime-sama~! I.. I'm already used goods....!"

Uwahhhh, Katsuie sank her face into the tatami and starts sobbing.

"...Ehhh... Riku is crying so sadly... Ohh... And I was thinking that there was something weird, I see. Saru forcefully pushed himself on Riku who hates him, and ignoring Riku's defenses, he rubbed Riku's breasts. All the fault lies with Saru, as expected, this is what happened..."

"Ehhh!? It's not like this! I...I'm here for your reward... Ok, you don't cry too, come and explain everything to Nobuna, Katsuie!"

"No more words from you!"

\*Klang\*

Making people think where did she drag it out from, suddenly Nobuna's hand held the renowned sword, "Heshikiri Hasebe", and slashed at Yoshiharu's neck without even thinking.

At the nick of time, Yoshiharu rolled to the side and avoided it.

"Uwahn!? Wait, that was really out for my life! If I had been slower by half a second, my head would be cut down by you!"

"NO MERCY TO GIRL ASSAULTING VILLAINS LIKE YOU! Ahhhh, I, who had all kinds of delusions by myself and was troubled by it was like an idiot!"

"Eh? Delusions? What is that?"

"SHUT UP! I WON'T FORGIVE YOU TODAY, YOU ERO-SARU! GO TO HELL~!"

"Ka..Ka...Ka...Katsuie, I beg you, explain to her!"

"Uwahhhh.... Hime-sama... Hime-sama is so angry because Saru touched my breasts, I had never seen Hime-sama so angry before, as expected, as expected Hime-sama likes Saru, and upon finding Saru being frivolous, she likes him to the point of killing him! HIME-SAMA!!"

Yoshiharu ran out with all his might.

Out of Honou temple, and rushing down the dirt path lit by moonlight.

"Oi, I said wait! You demonic Saru that sneaks onto the humans! Why did you run!? Hurry and show me your neck for me to cut it off!"

"You, calm down and listen to my explanations!"

"NOT LISTENING NOT LISTENING NOT LISTENING NOT LISTENING! DEFINITELY NOT LISTENING! YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF FEELINGS I...I...I...I...I HAD WHEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME? BUT, BUT, WHY DID YOU RUN TO RUB RIKU'S BIG BREASTS SO SHAMELESSLY!?"

"Eh? Wait? What did you just say?"

"N.O.T.H.I.N.G! Anyway, just go to hell!"

Hoo...

\*Slash\*

Uwahhh, just a little more and I'm dead.

She is serious this time.

Nobuna went into Demon lord mode!?

If I'm caught, I will definitely be killed!

Yoshiharu ran in the night streets while shouting.

"DAMN IT... WHY DID THINGS BECOME LIKE THIS!? DAMN IT!"

"WAIT! YOU FRIVOLOUS BASTARD!"

At that night, the people in Kyoto were spreading, "The sixth demon lord who almost burned Mount Hiei is swinging her sword wildly to banish a demonic monkey that appeared in the city this time." a terrible rumor. Even when Yoshiharu screamed, "SAVE ME!" and knocked on the doors, no one will open for him.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>



## Chapter 5 : Furinkazan's Flag

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### Part 1

Southern Omi, Lake Biwa's winter.

After signing the peace agreement, without any rest, Nobuna lead an army out to Southern Omi. But all she found was the Rokoku clan hiding back in Kouga. Also unexpectedly, she found someone there.

"Hohoho, Nobuna-dono, there is no need to worry anymore."

It was Saitou Dousan.

Dousan who accompanied Nobuna to Kyo was forced back to Mino by those grannies that were chasing him for his debts. After that, he received news of Takeda Shingen planning to head to Kyo too, and had tightened his security. Even after hearing about Nobuna being assassinated at Kirara hill during the "Retreat at Kanegasaki" by the Asai Asakura allied forces, he endured it and stayed at Gifu while observing the situation.

The biggest reason why Dousan tried so hard to endure through it, is because if he had tried to save Nobuna, the Gifu castle will be open to Kai's Takeda Shingen's attacks.

And making Dousan resolve to head out to Southern Omi under such a situation is due to receiving reports of "Nobuna coming back" and "the Asai Asakura allied troops retreating from Mount Hiei."

If Nobuna-dono is still alive, Takeda Shingen won't possibly move out so simply.

"The danger in Kyoto is because of the Southern Omi's Rokoku clan having control over the southern side of Lake Biwa. So, if I defeat the Rokoku clan at the same time the Asai Asakura allied troops retreat, Kyoto and Mino will once again be linked and the danger will be gone."

Without hesitation, Dousan lead his troops on hand and attacked the Rokoku clan. Using his frightening strategies as "Viper", he defeated the Rokoku clan.

The only thing that Dousan's wits did not expect was Asai Hisamasa retreating back to Odani castle through them. And on meeting him and the Rokoku clan battling with each other, Hisamasa said, "Though the Rokoku

clan is our, Asai clan's enemy, but right now, we should help each other." and started the attack against Dousan.

Though Dousan's numbers were overwhelmingly disadvantageous, but due to the "Viper" cunning strategies, he broke the formation of the Asai army and the confused enemy collapsed. Asai Hisamasa can only lead the rest of his troops away and fled to Odani castle.

Seeing that the Asai army had been totally defeated, the Rokoku clan dispersed without hesitation and hid back in Kouga. Dousan who won in this "Battle of Yasu River" gained the territory of Southern Omi.

The Oda clan who had been isolated at Kyoto was once again reunited with their base at Mino due to Dousan's preemptive strike.

Nobuna who had finally met Dousan, gave the command of the troops to Niwa Nagahide and gave the order for the troops to rest for half a day.

And at this time.

Nobuna pitched a tent at Mount Azuchi of the eastern side of Lake Biwa and the three of them looked at the wide lake while appreciating the scenery and eating dinner. The other two are...

"Nobuna-dono, I'm sorry for not being able to help much during this crisis of the Oda clan. This is my fault for being forced to run back to Mino by those grannies."

Saitou Dousan said while narrowing his eyes.

"Hoho, say the truth. It's because you are afraid to meet me again, Viper-dono."

While smiling, Matsunaga Hisahide held out tea and snacks to Dousan.

Dousan broke out in sweat as his body started shivering.

"According to your personality, are those tea and snacks poisoned?"

"Don't worry, Yoshiharu-dono has warned me."

"Oh..."

"You can't do anything to that guy too, as expected of him." Dousan praised.

"Though he's a strange fellow, but his feelings for Nobuna-sama shamed even I."

"Your love is that of a bad mother, I think." Dousan laughed.

"Ara, I don't want to hear that from you. I have not done anything that will make my master banish me. I'm a woman full of love and loyalty."

"Didn't I say that there is nothing I can do at that situation?"

"Signing the contract to give Mino to Nobuna-sama yet becoming such a state, there is totally no one who will believe you."

Saitou Dousan and Matsunaga Hisahide.

The two, though they were laughing while smiling at each other, yet they were actually able to finish each other off at any time they wanted.

"The Viper and Scorpion are actually old acquaintances. I did not know anything about that. Just how much did this geezer borrow from you, Danjo?"

Like a daughter sitting between the two of them, Nobuna smiled.







Dousan and Hisahide avoided each other's glances and smiled bitterly.

These two are not of a simple creditor and a debtor kind of relationship.

Both were in love with each other. A couple that almost became husband and wife in the process of conquering the world together. But in the end, due to their individual ambitions, their relationship suffered and after a violent argument, they regrettably split.

Dousan thought that to conquer the world, one must first claim Mino.

But Hisahide was fixated with the revenge on the evil nobles of Kyoto, and wanted Kyoto as the first objective. Dousan retorted, "Trying hard to defend Kyoto as a base is not wise. Preparing an army and opening up commerce in Mino and waiting till the time is ripe. One can then head into Kyo and conquer the world." and thought that Hisahide's mindset was too immature.

But what really hurt Hisahide was Dousan's unintentional words, "Your dream is just personal grudges. You have been blinded by your feelings and are now unable to see the situation clearly. This isn't what someone aiming for the world should have."

The two had thought that their paths in life would never cross again.

At this time, due to a girl called Nobuna, they miraculously crossed once again.

"Haha, because it's been so long ago, I had forgotten just how much he had borrowed from me, huh?"

"The interest is quite frightening, it's no longer possible to even estimate it."

"Don't tell me, you had never thought we will once again meet like this and become comrades?"

"Yeah, the fate of people are really mysterious."

Dousan gave such a feeling to Hisahide with a glance.

The grudges of the past. Just let it be over.

The both of them had given up their own rights for happiness for their own ambition.

In the end, they were not able to get married in this lifetime.

But now, they had a common daughter.

Someone that is able to succeed their ambition of conquering the world and extending their dream. That is their daughter, whom they are proud of.

An irreplaceable treasure.

Hisahide too sent her feelings to Dousan using a way they can understand.

Not afraid of me who was from another country. Admiring me like a real mother. Nobuna is just so cute that I can't help it.

"Look, the sun is slowly setting at the direction of Mount Hiei."

"So beautiful..." With glittering eyes, Nobuna pointed to the west and said.

Under the reflection of Lake Biwa in the winter, the setting sun seemingly set the skies ablaze.

The birds were floating around the surface of the lake.

Dousan and Hisahide, their hearts are now linked together with Nobuna.

"If such a peaceful time could continue forever, how good can that be..."

"At the other side of Lake Biwa, my brother and Asai Nagamasa were trapped at Chikubu Island."

"Please don't worry, Nobuna-sama."

"Uhhh, the ninja Goemon will definitely bring the two of them back safely, so there is nothing to worry about. Once the two of them return to your side, we can once again begin the battle to conquer the world."

"Anyway, Nobuna-dono, I heard Hisahide had prepared lots of strong drugs to let you stay in a blurry state for very long. Please be more careful about the drugs that this woman prepared."

"Uhh, that's why I said I had been lectured by Yoshiharu already. I will be more careful next time."

"Hisahide too. It's not good to dote excessively on a child while saying so cute, so cute. Miyoshi Nagayoshi ruined his health due to drinking your drug for long periods of time, isn't it? It's time you grow up."

"What should I do? I, might never grow up in this life time. See, I have no husband even now, so~"

"Uhh, such a lamenting tone, please don't look at me like that."

Looking at the birds disappearing in the horizon, Nobuna laughed lightly.

"Such beauty, it's almost like in my dreams."

Without knowing it, she sang the song she loved.

""A man's life of 20 years, compared to the age of the world, it's like a fleeting dream. Those that was born in this world, will not be spared from death. But I do not think so. Life is short. The end will come no matter what. Maybe, the world itself is nothing but a dream, but, isn't the dream that I saw after drinking Danjo's drug a dream too? No matter which world, it's all but a dream.""

But when Dousan wanted to say something, Nobuna laughed and continued.

"But, I love this dream of a world much, much more! Because, there are comrades that are chasing after the same dream as me! No matter what kind of beautiful dream it is, just by myself, it is too lonely. I, no matter what kind of imperfect dream, even if I'm in a world that won't change to something I hope for, even if that lecherous Saru was a little frivolous, or a booby fiend. To me, I still love this world that can be together with everyone!"

Dousan too. Hisahide too.

Using their actions in replace of words, they gently caressed Nobuna's head.

Dousan prayed sincerely, hoping that this peaceful time could continue like this forever.

"Senpai, let us accompany Nobuna-sama and eat some takoyaki. I can meet my old master Dousan-sama too."

"Look at this atmosphere a little, Juubei-chan. This isn't the time for us to interrupt."

"Uhh, you have a point. Anyway Senpai, the 50 arquebus that I lent you at Kanegasaki, it's about time you give it back."

"I'm sorry, the arquebus, there's only half left."

"The interest is very high. If you don't return them as soon as possible, the money you need to return will become higher and higher."

At the foot of Mount Azuchi.

Yoshiharu and Mitsuhide were protecting Nobuna. They were all quarreling as per normal.

"But, Juubei-chan, you are the first to become a master of a castle. Damn it, I thought I would be the first. Damn it!"

"Hoho, Sagara-senpai could not be compared to this genius Mitsuhide. Isn't this normal for the fair Nobuna-sama?"

"The reward for leading the back troops of Kanegasaki is just a persimmon, and the promise of a kiss was soon ignored. Instead, why was Juubei-chan given Omi's Sakamoto's 50000 dan worth of land. I can't accept that, don't you think it's unacceptable? And, that persimmon is a rotten one! Don't tell me, that is a punishment for touching Katsuie's breasts!?"

"It's enough to give a Saru a persimmon, Nobuna-sama said so very angrily, Senpai."

"Ahhh.... Katsuie said after that, "Though I agreed to let you touch them, I didn't say you could rub them!" and is now aiming for my life... What is this..."

"That is just a joke. And, even if Senpai's life was threatened, the genius swordswoman, esteemed and beautiful Juubei Mitsuhide will protect Saru-senpai this whole life by your side, so there is no need to worry!"

Mitsuhide smiled as she held on to Yoshiharu's hand.

Yoshiharu thought, "Again, there seems to be a hidden agenda or something? But.... Such an honest smile, as expected, she's a cute kouhai." as his gaze met hers.

At this time, Mitsuhide thought of what happened when she was staying at Honnou temple and was called over suddenly by Nobuna.

## Part 2

"At that time, Nobuna-sama is....."

Asking other retainers to go off since a secret discussion with Mitsuhide was held.

"To control Mount Hiei, I wish for Juubei to control the eastern side of Lake Biwa, the area of Sakamoto. That Sakamoto area is connecting Mount Hiei and the gate of Kyoto strategic point of interest. I don't want to hand over that spot to Asai Asakura. Juubei, build a castle there the way you want it."

"Roger. Then, I shall oversee the construction work of Sakamoto immediately, and guard against the Asai Asakura allied forces."

The talented Mitsuhide said, "Then, let's start with the designs." and thus researched with Nobuna on the details of the castle.

Nobuna said, "As for the castle, I wish for you to do this." and said some of the ideas she had in her mind.

The era of mountain fortresses is already over.

To adapt to the era of Tanegashima, the future fortress is more suitable to build on flat lands.

A mountain fortress, because it's an obvious target, an arquebus squad can very quickly destroy the walls under concentrated fire, and the base will be lost.

The most important thing that a fortress needs at this arquebus era is....

It's "water".

If we dig a wide trench beside the fortress and put in water next, it will effectively defend against enemy attacks.

And to use "water" effectively, compared to mountains, castles constructed near lakes or rivers are more suitable. These are called "a castle on the plains", or to be more accurate, a "water fortress".

"If we build a castle at Sakamoto, the best choice is to face the back of it to Lake Biwa, and dig the trench at the front of it to form a "water fortress". A base on water like Sakamoto castle will greatly decrease the travelling time of Nobuna-sama if we link Lake Biwa to it. With this, an emergency like Kiyomizu temple will be dealt with swiftly too."

And though this has nothing to do with battles, Hisahide-dono had built a strange 4-storeys castle at Tamonyamajo in Yamato. At Japan, it is a

beautiful palace called the "Shining with brightness". I, Mitsuhide who had heard of this too, have visited Yamato and had done intensive research on the building methods of that castle. I too planned to build that on Sakamoto. A castle that makes people feel that this chaotic era is going to end and peace will soon come!

"Wh...What do you think about it, Nobuna-sama?"

"Juubei, that idea is fabulous, though it's kinda bad to use Danjo's creativity, but you are really a remarkable genius."

"Not at all, not at all. I'm a little flattered to be said like that."

Ahhh, I'm praised again by Nobuna-sama, my talent is so terrifying.

"Let's do it like you said, but, the Sakamoto castle won't need any temporary masters."

"Hmmm, what does that mean?"

"I'll give you Sakamoto castle. You will be the real master of it, and the land is worth 50000 dan!"

"M...Me being a daimyo of a province!? But, I, Mitsuhide's time in the Oda clan is very short! A...And if we think about the contribution, Sagara-senpai who lead the back troops at Kanegasaki should be the master!"

"Anything is fine for Saru. He's just an idiot who became excited from rubbing Riku's breasts."

"Y...Yes. But though I, Mitsuhide am smart and witty, have a distinguished bloodline and is a rare bishoujo as such a thing is as much of a common sense as the sun rising from the east and sets on the west, but I am not as active as Sagara-senpai."

"Juubei, didn't you save Saru with no care for your own safety? If Juubei had given up when you saw Saru being exploded to pieces at the Misaka pass, then Saru would definitely be dead."

"Though it's so, but umm, it's just because I didn't notice the atmosphere and my personality of not giving up on things that I started on isn't something to be bragged about."

Suddenly Nobuna-sama tightly grabbed my hands, and, big tears started dropping from her eyes.

"Thank you so much, really, thank you so much!"

That Nobuna-sama who had never lowered her head towards her retainers to cry, cried due to the joy of this. Mitsuhide's chest felt a flow of warmth.

If it's for this master, Juubei Mitsuhide is willing to give everything for her. She honestly thought so.

It's just that, her heart seems to be rumbling with an ominous feeling.

"Thank you, thank you." Looking at Nobuna-sama with her face full of tears, her body seems to be hurting like being poked with needles.

Why was this so, even I the smart and witty Mitsuhide cannot understand.

"From now on, I'm relying on you for Saru too. That fellow will run to dangerous places while muttering to himself if we don't look at him properly. He is so weak yet he has such strange courage, but if Juubei is protecting him by his side, I can relax a little."

Ehhh!? to Nobuna-sama, Sagara-senpai is a retainer, no, a family member. Such an important existence, this is without a doubt the truth.

But, don't tell me, she is planning to let I, Mitsuhide and Sagara-senpai, ummm, marry!?!?!?

Th...That's too troubling... Umm, that Sagara-senpai is like a child that was doted on by his mother, though that's cute, but if I were to choose between liking or disliking, u...uh...umm.... I don't dislike him but liking him or something, it's still debatable but, to senpai who was forced to leave his mother, I think someone who loves him and takes care of him is necessary. Once I recalled what happened in that cave, my body somehow began to feel hot, th...though it's to save him, bu...but I did have body contact with senpai already... Mi...Mitsuhide already belongs to senpai!?

All in all, though Juubei Mitsuhide was so embarrassed that she felt she could die, but, since it's Nobuna-sama's order, I can only marry senpai.

"Roger, since this is the order of Nobuna-sama, then you can leave Sagara-senpai's matters to me!"

"Thanks, I will never forget this debt of Juubei saving Saru. I will be indebted to you till the end of my life."

The Omi's Sakamoto is a reward for saving Sagara-senpai... If that's the case, I will accept it then.

Of course, what was said here, Nobuna-sama forbade anyone to discuss this with Saru.

"All in all, I, Juubei Mitsuhide from now on, will take care of senpai. Though it's hard to think of them as the same person, but the senpai during the day that acts arrogant is actually a child who loves to snuggle around his mother, and the only one who knows this humiliating fact of him is just me Mitsuhide. Hohoho."

"Anyway, why are you happily smiling by yourself, Juubei-chan? What is going on?"

"B...But, a girl to be forced into marriage isn't something to get used to. And I'm busy in coming up with the design plans for Sakamoto castle now. But, if I finish each of them one by one, holding a marriage is just a matter of time. Of course I'm not happy about it at all, but because it's my master's order, so I can only do that~"

"I have totally no idea what you are saying but if you become strange like this after becoming a daimyo, isn't it bad?"

"Not at all not at all, because this Sakamoto castle will one day belong to Sagara-senpai too. There is nothing to worry about."

"Huh? What does that mean!?"

"You're too much. To ask a bride to say such things before getting married, Ahnnn~."

"Is there any strange motives? It must be a new way to fool with me."

That time at that day, Mitsuhide made quite a big misunderstanding, and the reason of this misunderstanding was due to Mitsuhide's light feelings of her first love. But Yoshiharu did not notice it at all.

### Part 3

"Oichi, be strong, someone will definitely come save us."

"Hmmm, Kanjuurou too. Is your body condition still ok?"



"No need to worry. Don't judge me by my appearance. I have confidence in my body strength, hahaha!"

"But, your voice doesn't seem too energetic."

The location is the lone island of Lake Biwa, Chikubu Island.

At this island's prison cells, Hisamasa have imprisoned the current "Oichi" Asai Nagamasa, and the previous "Oichi" Tsuda Kanjuurou.

The cell imprisoning the cross-dressing beauty Nagamasa was a grand single room. With 3 grand meals everyday, her treatment was of the highest quality so it's still okay. It could be seen from this that her father just grounded her here because of Nagamasa's unrelenting objection to Nobuna's betrayal.

But at the other side of the tunnel, the cell that imprisoned Nobusumi was a small and wet stone cell. Everyday, the guards will just give Nobusumi some watery gruel. The ceiling of the stone cell is very low and he can't even stand up straight.

If this goes on, Nobusumi will become weaker and weaker and finally die here.

Nagamasa had repeatedly pleaded with the guards saying, "At least put me at the same cell as Kanjuurou.", but the guards always said, "Master had once ordered us to not let both of you get near to each other." and had rejected while shaking their heads.

Catching Nobusumi and knowing that he was actually a guy. He had roared, "That bastard Oda Nobuna, how dare you treat me like a fool!?" and was planning to kill Nobusumi to vent off some anger.

But, after considering that Nobusumi had the worth of a hostage, he finally banished both of them to Chikubu island.

Of course, the cells are not together.

So, Nagamasa and Nobusumi can't even touch each other with their fingers.

At the dark prison, they can't even see each other clearly.

Connecting the both of them, are just weak voices.

The couple had come into this sengoku era and even though they were born from different clans, yet, while being imprisoned, they could not endure the fact of not seeing each other and touching each other.

Maybe the guards were lamenting on the fate of this Owari and Omi beautiful couple, so, they had never disturbed their conversation before.

Even now, they were waiting patiently at this underground prison.

"Ok Oichi, get a hold of yourself. Though I overheard the guards saying rumors about Aneue being assassinated, but how can Aneue be finished off so easily? She will definitely come and save us."

"Hmmm."

Nobusumi whispered again.

"Saru-kun had sent his ninja to Northern Omi. We will have chances to escape at any time."

"Kanjuurou, I must take back the position of head from Father. If I don't go save Aneue, the chaotic era of this country will never end."

"I've made up my mind, but that is extremely hard on you."

"Father who had almost never left Omi knows nothing. This is no time to be killing each other at such a small island country."

The both of them looked at the weak sunlight coming in from a hole as if praying.

\*Boom\*

There was an explosion at the entrance somehow!

"Ahh, it's ninja-kun!" Nobusumi shouted happily.

"Asai-shi, Tsuda-shi, it's been too long. I, who even scare crying babies to silence is here!"

"Leading the lolicon comrades of the Kawanami clan, Maeda, to not let Boss's soft skin be hurt, is here too!"

"To protect the boss, our eternal idol, the Kawanami clan appears!"

"Comrades, save this princess and the little one from this Chikubu island."

The help finally came.

Being released from the cells, Nobusumi and Nagamasa tightly hugged each other.

The future seems much brighter suddenly....!

"Leave words for later! Now, we should escape from here!"

"Ohh, that's true, Ninja-kun."

"I will negotiate directly with Father now."

"Asai-shi, now we should escape to somewhere safe! Negotiating or things like that, please leave it to later."

"No, I want to go to Odani castle. I have to take back the position of head!"

"No, Asai Hisamasa isn't at a state that he will listen to you! And, that man isn't at Odani castle now!"

"What? What did you mean?"

"Ninja-kun, Oichi, hurry! The soldiers are here!"

The Asai army who had rushed over here was temporarily slowed down by Goemon's smokescreen.

After that, Asai Nagamasa rode on the horse that Maeda brought, pulled Tsuda Nobusumi onto the horse and grabbed him in front of her.

The reason why Goemon and the Kawanami clan had spent so much time was due to the preparation of a perfect escape route.

All of the enemy soldiers fell into the traps that the Kawanami clan had prepared beforehand.

"Come, onto the boat!"

"We're indebted to you, Ninja-kun!"

"Kanjuurou!"

The both of them held each other's hands and aboard the boat.

"Now, let's hurry and head out."

The boat on Lake Biwa moved at high speed.

The Kawanami comrades who were skilled in water battles said, "This place is forbidden to pass through." and flipped the boats of the soldiers upside down.

"Hahahaha! This isn't the cave where you imprison humans! Once it's on the water, it's our Kawanami clan's world!"

"We are the heroes who created the Ichiya castle legend!"

"Perfect, with this, we have gained Boss's praises!"

Sighing with relief, Goemon said to Nagamasa and Nobusumi, "Hime-sama is currently safe."

"The Oda army is currently pacing(facing) off with the Asai Asakura allied forces at Mount Hiei. After we finished what we are boing(doing) here, we will beet(meet) with them immediately. Bow(Now), there isn't a bingle(single) minute we can belayed(delayed)."

Nobusumi and Nagahide who had lost what Goemon was trying to say were glancing at Lake Biwa's reflection of the moon while talking to each other.

"Our clans have avoided a direct confrontation! And the palace decree had given us a temporary peace agreement. Isn't this what we want? To us, this is the best chance that we can recover the alliance between the Asai and Oda clan."

"After abandoning Aneue, I had given up on the dream of conquering the world with her. But, who would have thought that I can have the chance to fight together with her for her dream?"

"Anyway, in that dream, there is me too, though I'm on the back seat, hahaha!"

"You aren't on the back seat, aren't you my husband? Just stay by my side and try your best."

"Hmmm."

"Though it's winter, it's so hot here... Ahh, as expected, love should be something that suave guys and beauties should have. Us, who are full of sweat have no connection with it..." At Goemon's side, the Kawanami comrades were looking at the two of them jealously.

But...

Fate suddenly made a huge turn for the worse.

Finally reaching the shore of Lake Biwa, at that time when Nagamasa and the rest were getting off the boat,

On the road that's beside the shore, at that dark road, the Asai clan troops who were seemingly defeated was coincidentally witnessed by Nagamasa and the rest.

No, it already cannot be called an army.

"Hurry and run!"

"Mino's Viper, Mino's Viper is coming!"

"He's not his opponent. Hisamasa-sama could not be compared with Viper at all."

"Hurry and escape back to Odani castle!"

They were totally decimated and had been consumed by fear.

There wasn't any soldier that is without injury or bleeding, but what made them most afraid of was their delusions of Saitou Dousan.

"What is going on, Ninja-kun?"

"I'm afraid that on their way back to Odani castle, they met with Dousan-sama who was leading troops and had been defeated."

"Mino's Viper should not have too many military forces."

"On one side, the commander is skilled in battle. On another side, the other is famous for being fearing battles. The difference of the capabilities in their commanders were too much."

"It seems like even if the numbers are overwhelmingly different, there isn't a problem."

And,

They saw the utterly injured Asai Hisamasa riding along with the defeated soldiers.

Hisamasa was wailing in regret.

To let his own child have a chance in obtaining the world, he who wasn't skilled in combat and had been cowardly had plucked up his courage and fought.

But, with just a little more, he couldn't kill Nobuna and had met Dousan on the way. His army was totally decimated and the fate of the Asai clan was hanging on a thread.

"If I had just a little bit of talent for waging wars.... How can I pass this on to Nagamasa...?" Hisamasa sank into a deep anguish.

Nagamasa and the rest were looking at the defeated army in a daze and were found out by the 3 elders of the Asai clan. Though all 3 of them were experienced generals, but due to the big difference in the commander this time with Dousan, they could not display their prowess and seems to be greatly injured.

"Ohh, You are... Nagamasa-sama!?"

"Saruyashamaru-sama! You have come for your father?"

"If we are not lead by Nagamasa-sama at such a situation, we might not even be able to run!"

"Hisamasa-sama had planned to commit seppuku upon reaching Odani castle! Saruyashamaru-sama, please abandon the grudge at Chikubu Island and command us again."

"Please save the Asai clan!"

Nagamasa was speechless.

Right now in front of her eyes, the Asai clan was slowly moving towards oblivion.

Though the Oda clan did not seem to continue chasing, Hisamasa himself had decided to commit seppuku. And the three elders in front of her had also resolved with themselves to die with the Asai clan.

Father Hisamasa, or the elders, they believed in me, Saruyashamaru, that I should stand at the top of the world, that's why they betrayed the Oda clan.

Though I had felt the difference in capabilities with Oda Nobuna...

But, to abandon father and retainers that believe in me, such a thing, I can't do it.

"Nagamasa-sama!"

"I got it, I will go back to become the head of the Asai clan."

"Thank you so much."

"Roger."

"With this, the Asai clan has hope again!"

At this time, the star of the sengoku warrior, Asai Nagamasa became dark.

And Nobusumi who was at her side became shocked,

"Oichi!? With this, won't you take the path of crossing swords with the Oda clan?"

"I can't just do nothing while father and the retainers are destroyed, I'm sorry, Kanjuurou."

Asai Nagamasa rode onto the white horse that the soldiers brought over and headed towards Odani castle.

"In the end, my name is the Asai clan's head, Asai Nagamasa. Oichi, is just a dream that will be destroyed in the end... Farewell, Kanjuurou."

Nobusumi wanted to chase on his feet.

"Wait, Oichi! You are no longer Saruyashamaru! You're my wife, Oichi isn't it!? If you betray Aneue, we will have to face each other as enemies!"

But, Nobusumi could not catch up.

The panicking soldiers formed a wave that blocked the road.

Nagamasa could not answer Nobusumi's shouts, as she made up her mind not to turn back while biting her lips till there was blood.

"HOW CAN THIS BE, IDIOT, HURRY AND COME BACK, OICHI! OICHI!"

Looking at Nobusumi who collapsed onto the ground, Maeda and the Kawanami clan had no words for comfort.

Only Goemon said a long sentence that she isn't used to with a painful expression.

"Humans, could not always get what they want. When she chose between Asai Nagamasa and Oichi, the one who is best should be the chooser. That person, her heart is most likely dead. (the one who is most sad should be the chooser. That person, her heart is most likely dead.)

Such a pity...

## Part 4

At the eastern side is, Kai province.

At this mountain fortress, a huge castle suitable for a sengoku daimyo does not exist.

Tsutsujigasakikan.

A frugal styled house that was left over from Muromachi era.

The 19th clan head of Takeda Clan, Takeda Shingen Harunobu said a renowned sentence "People are the castles, people are the walls, people are the trenches" with this meaning, "My retainers are Takeda clan's fortress". To enforce such words, she will never build a castle at her own base in Kai.

The people in the sengoku era can't help but felt impressed by this renowned warrior, Takeda Shingen.

But the truth is... Those are all lies.

Takeda Shingen wasn't such a person.

As a base, the Tsutsujigasakikan is enough. A huge castle for defensive purposes needed lots of money and it is meaningless.

Shingen, all she could think of is attack.

"It's meaningless to receive attacks from enemies at your own land! Battling on other people's land should be considered as battles! Because I have an attack, attack and attack personality!"

Yes.



Though Takeda Shingen was yet to be a 20 years old warrior, she was born into the distinguished Takeda clan whose responsibility was to protect Kai. But, she has the same amount of interest in war as her violent father.

People called this personality belligerent.

For Shingen, it is sensible. She had no interest whatsoever with Buddhism teachings but loves to engross herself in "The art of war". In her martial arts skills, she had unsurpassable talents and had never lost in a 1-to-1 battle. Only Echigo's Uesugi Kenshin can stand up to her in equal terms.

Like the embodiment of ambition, right after banishing her own father and getting the position of head of the clan, she led soldiers to attack Shinano. But this out of the ordinary action provoked "Justice's ally" Dragon of Echigo, Uesugi Kenshin and started a battle at Kawanaka island. That was the first time that Shingen with her scoreboard of full victories struggled in a 1 on 1 battle. But, even in the end when Shingen was forced to retreat, she shouted, "Kenshin, I will definitely surpass you!! I had finally met my rival! If not for this, things will be boring! Ahahahahaha!" as her spirit and energy had burst out all in one time.

But compared to Uesugi Kenshin, who had no desire on territories, Shingen's defenses are weak. After hearing that Imagawa Yoshimoto of the alliance was captured, she abandon the alliance immediately and conquered Suruga, as expected from her "Attack is the best defense." thinking. Like a demon that keep on waging wars to enlarge her territory, as a result, the current territory that the Takeda clan has is around 1200000 dan.

Maybe, Takeda Shingen is the strongest in this sengoku era.

Not just having enormous strength, Shingen has perfect management over her retainers.

Her invincible cavalry as the core, her army was the strongest no matter the quality or the quantity.

The report that makes Takeda Shingen acts is that of "Oda Nobuna burning Mount Hiei"

The brother of Himiko-sama, the high monk, Tendai head priest, master of Mount Hiei was currently visiting Kai.

"If you were received by some wild monkey of Kai, the people will definitely be shocked. It's about time you give me a higher position in court, don't you think so?" Shingen, who did not hide even a little bit her ambition, was receiving him.

Even though Kai is a poor province that can't even grow wheat, but using Shingen's technique, they are currently digging gold mountains and they have unlimited amounts of gold every month.

But Shingen uses these gold onto waging wars without regret. Enlarging her territory. On the conquered lands, she also put in lots of budget on renovating the water works and preparing the land for farming. With the productivity within her territories growing repeatedly, great amounts of people gathered and the tax gathered naturally grew. Shingen then used the money gathered on her favorite extravagant expanding policies, which in actual fact, isn't warring. Shingen had immense interest on governing the provinces too, as expected from a multi-talented warrior. In the end, it is because of her love for governing and wanting to spar with her rival, Uesugi Kenshin, that these 2 main reasons had delayed her plans for heading on to Kyo. If not for delicately governing these new territories and as a result using up huge amounts of time and money, and waging war every year with Uesugi Kenshin at Kawanaka island, within 5 years Shingen took the head of the clan, the world would have been conquered.

This is the extent of the strength of the army that Shingen leads.

The strength of Uesugi Kenshin is only herself, even if Kenshin was able to fight on equal terms with Shingen, with Shingen's commanding skills, governing skills, the quality of the retainers, amount of the retainers under her command and the unwavering loyalty, they are all of the highest quality.

It's like she is the overlord of the sengoku chaotic era.

Towards Shingen who had put large amounts of money into her provinces, the people all said, "Shingen-sama is such a good girl!" "We are relying on you for our village's water works!" "Leave it to us for the construction of the dam of Shingen." and had sincerely admired her.

"This is the place where money should be used on." Shingen wasn't just well liked by the people, she knows how to make the nobles happy too.

When Kyoto's monks and nobles came for a visit, she will always hold a grand party and receive them personally.

When Kyoto's Kampaku, Konoe Sakihisa sent the ominous letter with wrong information, "Nobuna had burned Mount Hiei.", Kakujo was just at Tsutsujigasakikan and was attending a tea party with Shingen.

"This is a big matter. I no longer have a place to go back to."

"This Oda Nobuna is really worthy of the name, the sixth demon lord! Hahaha!"

"Shingen-dono, this isn't the time for jokes, isn't it?"

"Don't cry, don't cry. I will build a new Mount Hiei for you, just like Kinkaku temple, a pure gold temple, ahahahaha!"

"That senseless Mount Hiei will be troubling to me, and it's at Kai too." Though Kakujo was thinking so, but due to being scared of Shingen, he didn't dare to voice it out.

"Anyway, Kenshin-chan is now back into her old home of Echigo, I had finish my works on Imagawa Yoshimoto's lands. So boring~ Ok, I will use this "Burning of Mount Hiei." as a reason to fight Oda Nobuna and conquer Kyoto!"

Takeda Shingen stood up with gusto.

With a fairly tall build, and her bosom was considered big for females of this era.

Tonsure? What is that? Shingen who had grown her hair past her waist revealed a demure look inherited from her Kai origins. But, her fierce eyes like that of a hungry tiger makes Shingen look violent and fierce instead of being cute.

Takeda Bishi quickly dressed up her master's carnivore-like body. Her body was without a single fat, but like a girl, her curves and even the size of her breasts could be compared to Katsuie.



A demure appearance, a well bosomed body that is rare among Japanese, fierce looks and Takeda Shingen's own forceful presence. All of them made Kakujo shiver with fear.

"Clerks, write it like this! Oi, sixth demon lord, it's about time for me to go to Kyoto! You, just wait for I, Tendai head priest Takeda Shingen-sama to defeat you! Ok, that's it, beautiful!"

"U...Ummm, "Tendai head priest" is my rank and position, can't you not use it?"

"Ah? The most important of picking a fight is guts. Isn't it better to use a bigger rank and position to show off my strength? Don't mind such small details."

"Uhhh"

"Kansuke! Is Kansuke still alive!?"

\*Bham\*! At the same time Shingen kicked out, a small, single-eyed bald man appeared at the back of Kakujo without any sound.

"....Yamamoto Kansuke is here."

"Yamamoto Kansuke-sama, how is this possible? Previously, didn't you die at Kawanaka island?"

Kakujo was shocked, and Yamamoto Kansuke depressingly said, "It's true that my strategies were found out by Uesugi Kenshin at Kawanaka island. To take responsibility, I had to rush to the front lines preparing to die.... But mysteriously, my life wasn't taken and right now, it's a shame to be alive."

"Kansuke! This battle this time round is extremely important to conquering the world! To me, your strength is necessary!"

"Yes."

Actually, this genius strategist Yamamoto Kansuke who had just entered old age can't seem to pull himself together before the battle with the Oda clan.

"I see, you had been devoid of motivation recently, even after seeing my beauty, you aren't fired up. This is troubling."

"It's a pervert's behavior to see their master's appearance and be excited. I had taken the tonsure and been released from the mundane world. I will be very troubled if you treat me the same as those bastards."

"There's no helping it. Oi, Shirou! Shirou! Come over here for a while!"

Shingen shakes her head while calling her god-sister, Shirou.

"I'm~here~ Onee-sama~!"

Takeda Shirou Katsuyori.

She is the princess of Shinano's House Suwa since they have been defeated by Shingen,

Because she is too cute, Shingen who loves children said, "Isn't it too pitiful for such a cute child to be banished or imprisoned?" and stopped the ninjas and took her as her god-sister.

Shirou is 7 years old this year.

And she is still a naive and pure little girl.

"Shirou, come and sit on your sister's lap!"

This is pure love.

There isn't any taint in this love at all.

"Ohhhhhh, Katsuyori-samaaaaaaa! How... How bright is this beautiful appearance!"

"Shirou, say out what I have taught you."

"Ok, Kansuke, please lend your strength to Onee-sama."

Shirou Katsuyori said as she bowed her head to Kansuke.

\*Phew\*

From Yamamoto Kansuke's nose, huge amounts of fresh blood had spurt out like a hot spring.

"Ohhhhhhhh~!? You can't... You can't do this, Katsuyori-samaaaaa! Don't bow to a lowly servant like me! Damn it, my nosebleed. I can't stop my nosebleed!"

Even his tone already seems unsteady.

This is really a pure and untainted love!

"Roger! I, Yamamoto Kansuke will become a demon in this battle to cleanse off the taint on Kawanaka island."

Kansuke bowed so close to the floor that he was on the floor as he declared to Shirou Katsuyori.

When he lifted his head again, his face no longer had the face of a dried up geezer that had retired, but had changed back to a demon like strategist with "black" aura emanating from all over his body.

"Hohoho! In the whole of Japan, only Echigo's Uesugi Kenshin can be on par with master-sama. Though Oda Nobuna, Saitou Dousan, Matsudaira Motoyasu are seasoned in battle, but compared to master-sama, they could not be compared at all. As long as I, Yamamoto Kansuke serves Japan's strongest master-sama, I will definitely use all of my strength to finish off the enemies in front of us!"

"With just a short while, he entirely changed into another person. As expected from the strategists that can only be done by extraordinary people." Kakujo thought as he looked at Yamamoto Kansuke who had become a demon.

But, it's much more terrifying of Takeda Shingen who even uses her god-sister to control the hearts of her retainers.

"Your expression is better now, Kansuke. Skilled in strategies and your spot on divination, before we head out, let's do a divination then!"

"Roger, but master-sama. The skills I have is astronomy, it's a skill to predict a person's fate using the trajectory of the stars."

"What a fellow that is full of hard to understand words."

Kansuke took out a globe full of stars and spun it with a mysterious expression.

"Oh..."

After confirming his results, he laughed.

"...Hmmm, it's smooth sailing! Master-sama, the huge shining star at the west had fallen onto the ground, the enemy's commander's life is going to end soon."

"Ohhh, just whose life is ending soon?"

"Oda Nobuna, or Saitou Dousan. Right now, on the sky, these two stars were shining brightly side by side, but this is against heaven's decree. At the same place and time, there can only be one shining star. The other will definitely fall. Only this is an unchanged fact. The reason why they could co-exist now, is because someone forcefully interfered with their fates and confused the future. The next time their fates crosses again, one of them should fall."

Shingen said, "Ohh? How interesting. Just who can interfere and change their fate?" as she comes forward.

"Just who is it, and using what way to change these two fate, I do not know, this is the limit of astronomy divination."

"I see, if that's the case, it's necessary to use Sanada's subordinates."

"Sanada!?"

"Roger!"

"Someone that can change the fates of us is interesting, I must see him personally."

"Ahh, Master has an interest in that person?"

"That person is sent by heaven, he might be a greater rival than Uesugi Kenshin. Though I don't know why, but I just feel that way and somehow my chest rumbles."

A desire to fight with a strong enemy.

An enemy that can make her blood rush.

In Shingen's heart, a battle of the sengoku's strongest can only decide who can unify the world.

The world, if I am really interested in it, it will be a simple thing to get.

If not for this, I won't be so engrossed with Uesugi Kenshin and the battle of Kawanaka island and threw Kyoto to the corners of my mind.



Seems like in Oda Nobuna's camp, there is someone that I have not met before, a destined rival.

If that's the case,

I've decided to go to Kyo.

At Seta, we shall raise Takeda Bishi, and then the furinkazan flag.

Shingen who had made up her mind said at the end.

"Kansuke! If Dousan and Oda Nobuna continue their alliance, what will happen?"

Yamamoto Kansuke laughed, and said confidently.

"If those two keep defying the heavens and co-existing together, there will definitely be a destroyer star who will appear and thus, both of the stars will fall together."

"Though she finally has Dousan who is like a father, how pitiful. This might be Oda Nobuna that brat's fate."

Shingen who had banished her own father for her ambitions felt sympathy for Nobuna for this instant.

At the next instant, Shingen changed back to the sengoku's strongest demon lord.

"Kansuke! Summon Takeda's four generals! All Takeda troops, to Kyo! Let this battle surpass the battle of Kawanaka island and become an extraordinary event!"

Takeda Shingen, with a premonition of meeting her destined enemy, shouted loudly as she trembled with excitement.

And Kakujo who was hiding in a corner of the tea room thought, "Oda Nobuna and Takeda Shingen. These two heroes of the sengoku era will finally be battling with all they got." and shivered non-stop.

Fast like wind.

Silent like a forest.

Invading like a fire

Steady like a mountain

The furinkazan<sup>[4]</sup> flag flapped with the wind.

The mountain started moving.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

## References

1. ↑ Yoshimoto had been referring herself as 妾, used to refer herself at a higher status.
2. ↑ Chin was used by Chinese emperors to refer to themselves. Chinese drama fanatics will know this as 朕(Zhèn).
3. ↑ Nobuna used the word, Atashi here, used commonly for girls to refer to themselves.
4. ↑ Furinkazan is 风林火山, each word stands for wind, forest, fire, mountain respectively

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